



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

Office of Native Affairs and Policy

From: Native <Native@fcc.gov>

Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 1:49 PM

Subject: FCC Seeks Comment on Adding a Missing and Endangered Persons Event Code to the Emergency Alert System

Greetings from the Federal Communications Commission.

On March 15, 2024, the Commission released a [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) (NPRM) seeking comment on its proposal to adopt a new Emergency Alert System (EAS) event code for Missing and Endangered Persons (MEP). The deadlines to submit comments and reply comments for the NPRM are May 20, 2024 and June 17, 2024, respectively. See the Federal Register publication of the NPRM here: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/04/18/2024-08271/the-emergency-alert-system-and-wireless-emergency-alerts>

The EAS is a national public warning system, through which TV and radio broadcasters, cable systems, and other service providers deliver alerts to the public to warn them of impending emergencies and dangers to life and property. The proposed new MEP event code will allow for the transmission of “ASHANTI alerts” associated with missing or abducted persons from states, territories, or tribal communities that fall outside of America’s Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response (AMBER) Alert notification criteria to the public over the EAS.

While a widespread concern, the issue of missing and endangered persons is particularly prevalent in Tribal communities, where American Indian and Alaska Native people are at a disproportionate risk of experiencing violence, murder, or vanishing. In November 2023, the National Congress of American Indians adopted a resolution calling for the FCC to establish an MEP event code. The FCC proposes adopting the new MEP event code to facilitate the rapid and coordinated delivery of alert notifications about missing and endangered persons to the public in a uniform and consistent manner and is seeking public comment on this proposal.

If you would like to file comments, you may file them using the Commission’s Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings/standard> under proceeding PS Docket Nos. 15-91 and 15-94, or email native@fcc.gov.

As discussed in the NPRM, ONAP will issue a public notice at a later date to announce the commencement of Tribal consultation on the topics raised in the NPRM.

Thank you for your continued support.

Bambi Kraus
Chief, Office of Native Affairs and Policy