

FCC EAS PLAN

FOR

**Stanislaus – Tuolumne
Counties**

**Optional monitoring for
Calaveras, Mariposa, Merced and San Joaquin
Counties**

California

**December 11, 1998
Revised 1/14/99
FCC Approved 5/3/99**

EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM (EAS) - FCC LOCAL AREA PLAN

Stanislaus - Tuolumne Counties, California

Emergency Alert System (EAS) -

The EAS is a warning system to provide the public with immediate messages that affect life and property. An EAS warning may be for a few blocks or widespread - large parts of a city, sections of specified areas (such as a county or parts of adjoining counties;) or a part or all of a region; or several states or the entire nation.

The EAS is a way to provide emergency information quickly by radio, television and cable licensees to the public. Radio, television and cable entities cooperate on a voluntary organized basis to provide Local and State warnings, while Federal warnings are mandatory.

Types of Warnings -

In California, the EAS is used for warnings of an immediate action, such as funnel clouds or tornadoes actually occurring, evacuations of areas due to an incident (such as a hazardous spill) or a tsunami, or other event requiring immediate action.

Watches and statements of the National Weather Service (NWS) do not require such immediate action. In California (by agreement*) the EAS may not carry these messages, even though FCC rules provide for them. (*It's an option of the State and Local Area Communications Committees to determine the events for which the EAS will be used.)

However, the NWS may use its Weather Radio Specific Message Encoder (WRSAME) for the alerts for NWS watches and statements on 162 MHz National Weather Radio (NWR) channels. In that way the public can hear them on radio monitoring equipment even though they are not on the EAS system. For weather radio units consult local commercial firms. The State OES ED IS system - a different UHF radio system - also carries the NWS watches and statements.

Local Area EAS Plan -

A Local Area EAS Plan is a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) mandated document for the organization and implementation of the EAS for areas into which a state may be divided. The number of areas depends on state size and geography as well as radio and television coverage. (A remote area may receive signals from an adjoining state more consistently and stronger than from stations in the state it is within. Such areas may be assigned to the EAS plan of the adjoining state by agreement between the states.)

The Local Area plan provides the organized guideline for broadcasters and cable TV operators, and how they and local government officials use the EAS to provide information to the public. Procedures, and this plan, include the National Weather Service (NWS).

Responsibility with administering the Local Area Plan rests with the members of a Local Area Emergency Communications Committee (LECC). The LECC Chair and Vice Chair are appointed by the State Emergency Communications Committee Chair (SECC). The SECC and State Vice Chair are appointed by the FCC.

Local Emergency Area Plans are signed by the Local Area Chair and Vice Chair for Cable, a National Weather Service (NWS) representative, the State Chair (SECC) and the Federal Communications Commission.

EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM (EAS) - FCC LOCAL AREA PLAN Stanislaus-Tuolumne Counties, California

REVISIONS

MAJOR REVISION

A major revision could be LP stations, RMT time/dates. These need SECC and FCC concurrence, coordinated through the EAS SECC Executive Secretary or Plans Coordinator at State OES to keep the State EAS Plan current. The EAS SECC Executive Secretary or Plans Coordinator at State OES can prepare the revisions if requested.

Major revision steps:

- (a) Revise the COO as appropriate. To show that a page has been revised may make two entries:
 1. [option] at the top of the COO page, add "rev (#)" after the COO#. {I.e., COO #2 (Rev1)}; then,
 2. [always] Show the revision in the footnote at the bottom of the page. (I.e., r1a)
- (b) Next, enter the change on a Revisions control sheet, like this or a separate page.
- (c) Then, Sign the Revision and
- (d) Forward it with a transmittal memo or letter to EAS Program at State OES. {The EAS SECC Executive Office}
- (e) When received BACK with FCC approval, forward a copy to all stations, entities, and governments.

MINOR REVISION

A minor revision is a technical correction to the general introduction, abbreviation or a COO, such as typing, misspelling, a revised telephone number, or who can activate {A typical revision is a COO, such as COO #3 (Rev2)}

Minor revisions steps:

- (a) Revise the page with the change same as for a Major Revision.
- (b) Enter the change on a Revision Control page, and SIGN AND DATE the Revisions Page
- (c) Send a co to all stations, entities, & overnments, and EAS Pro ram at State OES. he EAS SECC Executive Office

** Recent decisions concerning California, have left the interpretation of definitions (minor/major) up to the SECC. In most cases, the FCC has not objected to it's signatory omission on revisions as long as the local FCC office has been included in the revision process. However, this is subject to chanGe so check with the SECC on all procedures.*

Revision History

Revision 1a: 1/14/99 (Minor), Updated COO-1, COO-3 and COO-5 numbers and data.

Statement

This plan is a part of the State of California Emergency Alert System Plan. This is the Emergency Alert System (EAS) Plan for the Stanislaus - Tuolumne Counties FCC Local Area. In addition, local conditions allow signal overlap into portions of the adjoining counties of Calaveras, Mariposa, Merced and San Joaquin. Calaveras and San Joaquin Counties are in the Sacramento-Sierra FCC Local area, while the EAS plan for Mariposa and Merced Counties are in the San Joaquin Valley FCC Local Area. It is the intent of this plan to offer alternate and/or optional monitoring assignments for these adjoining counties.

This Plan consists of a cover page, an introduction and Communications Operation Orders. Amendments, when signed by the LECC, SECC and approved by the FCC, are incorporated herein by reference thereto. A chronological and detailed record of revisions and amendments shall be maintained by the LECC.

The operational date of this plan is the date it is approved and signed by the SECC Chair. When it is approved and signed by the FCC, the LECC Chair shall cause a copy to be distributed to all stations and cable entities. Copies for public information shall not contain "hot-line" numbers or confidential codes.

Broadcasters and Cable Stations

The Stanislaus - Tuolumne Counties FCC Local Area includes all broadcasters and cable television companies in and serving Stanislaus - Tuolumne Counties.

FIPS CODE	COUNTY
06099	Stanislaus
06109	Tuolumne

Adjoining Counties whose broadcasts may serve this area and into which areas the broadcasts of th entities within this area may overlap:

06077	San Joaquin
06009	Calaveras
06047	Merced
06043	Mariposa

Map of FCC Local Area

[Map placed here by SECC in printed version]

COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS ORDER CA-ST COO-1

MONITOR PLAN

1.1 The **LP1 station is KOSO** 860 KHz - 93.1 MHz.

The LP1 station will monitor:

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| a. KGBY (FM) | 92.5 MHz | -or- | KFBK 1530 kHz |
| b. KMJ | 580 kHz | -or- | KEFR 89.9 MHz |
| c. NWS | 162.550 MHz | | Sacramento |
| d. CLERS | 154.710 MHz | Mt Diablo | 453.875 Telegraph |
| e. Amateur Repeater | 145.390 - p1136.5 | DTMF Decoder Starts recorder and alerts operator | |
| f. NWS (Fresno) | 162.400 MHz | | Fresno |

1.2 The **LP2 station is KSJN 102.3 MHz**

The LP2 station will monitor:

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|------|-----------------------|
| a. KOSO | 93.1 MHz | | |
| b, KGBY (FM) | 92.5 MHz | -or- | KFBK 1530 kHz |
| c. KMJ | 580 kHz | -or- | KEFR 89.9 MHz |
| d. NWS (Sacto) | | | 162.55 MHz Sacramento |
| e. CLERS | 154.710 MHz | | Mt Diablo |
| f. NWS (Fresno) | 162.400 MHz | | Fresno |

1.3 All LP stations and CATV control points must monitor two of the following

- | | |
|---------|------------|
| a. KOSO | 93.1 MHz |
| b. NWS | 162.55 MHz |
| c. KJSN | 102.3 MHz |

1.4 In addition, but not in lieu of, any other station listed in 1.1 and 1.2 above are recommended monitoring:

- | | |
|----------|-------------------------|
| a. CLERS | 154.710 MHz |
| b. KCBS | 740KHz |
| c. EDIS | 450.0375 (AX.25 Packet) |

EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM (EAS) – FCC LOCAL AREA PLAN Stanislaus –
Tuolumne Counties, California

COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS ORDER CA-ST COO-2

2.1 National Event Codes for messages required to be carried by all stations and entities

EAN	Emergency Action Notification Message
EAT	Emergency Action Termination Message
NIC	National Information Center Message
NPT	National Periodic Test
RMT	Required Monthly Test
RWT	Required Weekly Test

2.2 Local Event Codes for messages to be carried by all participants in this FCC local Area.

BZW	Blizzard Warning
GEM	Civil Emergency Message
EVI	Evacuation Immediate
FFW	Flash Flood Warning
FLW	Flood Warning
HUW	Hurricane Warning
HWW	High Wind Warning
SVR	Severe Thunderstorm Warning
TOR	Tornado Warning

2.3 Local Event Codes for messages that are optional

FFA	Flash Flood Watch
FFS	Flash Flood Statement
FLA	Flood Watch
FLS	Flood Statement
HWA	High Wind Watch
SVA	Severe Thunderstorm Watch
SVS	Severe Thunderstorm Statement
TOA	Tornado Watch
WSA	Winter Storm Watch
WSW	Winter Storm Warning

(The separate EDIS (Electronic Digital Information System) messages include National Weather Service (NWS) watches and statements. See COO 5.6)

2.4 EAS administrative and test message codes, as listed below, are NOT to be relayed.

DMO	Practice/Demonstration Warning
ADR	Administrative Message

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COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS ORDER CA-ST COO-3

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Contains confidential data

- 3.1 All National Weather Service WARNING messages and EAS ACTIVATION REQUESTED messages will be transmitted over the national weather radio (NWR).
- 3.2 All stations and CATV Control Points are required to monitor the NWS frequency serving their area of responsibility.
- 3.3 The NWS transmitter carries three (3) digital headers, the NWS receiver alert tone, the EAS attention alert tones, the audio message, and the three (3) digital End-Of-Message (EOM) transmissions. No verbal message to exceed 115 seconds in length. However, the broadcasters in this Local Area expect them to be confined to 90 seconds or less. (EAS terminals will not record any EAS activation longer than 120 seconds. EAS receiving terminals will not record any activation message from any source that does not receive the EOM inside 120 seconds.)
- 3.4 In the event the NWS transmitter is off the air, the NWS office shall telephone the hot line. (Hot line numbers are NOT for public copies.)
 - a. Identify yourself. State the reason you are activating the Emergency Alert System. Be prepared to authenticate in accordance with COO Number 7 where appropriate. The broadcast station shall be prepared to immediately record your message. You may be asked for a level; say "Level level level level level."
 - b. On receiving the "go-ahead", say: "5, 4, 3, 2, 1. *This is the National Weather Service office in Sacramento. We are activating the Emergency Alert System for a (nature of the warning, my name is , the time is , and what, where, why.)*"

Read the message. (It must not exceed 115 seconds) (and end it with:) "*This concludes this Emergency Alert System message from the National Weather Service.*"

Remain silent until the broadcaster tells you it has been received okay.

The Broadcaster is responsible to interrupt programming, encode and broadcast the alert without delay

**CONFIDENTIAL DATA ** NOT TO BE IN
PUBLIC COPIES OF THIS PLAN**

COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS ORDER CA-ST COQ-4

**FOR LP1 AND LP2 STATIONS TO ACTIVATE
EAS AND TRANSMIT A LOCAL BROADCAST**

- 4.1 From the EAS terminal
- a. If the Event Code coincides with one shown on the COO Number 2 you will put it on the air as soon as possible using the prescribed EAS terminal instructions.
 - b. You may broadcast any other event Code message at your discretion.
- 4.2 From a telephone call
- a. You receive a telephone call from a person or agency authorized to initiate the Emergency Alert System (Authentication procedure - where required - is in COO-7. Radio or teleprinter transmissions from the NWS, another EAS station, local, or state government do not require authentication.)
 - b. Start recorder to record message.
Tell the telephone caller to "countdown and go."
Caller's out-cue is "This concludes this broadcast from the (Agency) in (location)."
 - c. Program your EAS terminal with the appropriate FIPS delivery and Event Codes.
 - d. Cue up message (if on external recorder) for broadcast. Fade out the program in progress and announce:
"We interrupt this program to activate the Emergency Alert System for the Stanislaus - Tuolumne Counties area. Important instructions will follow."
 - e. Activate your EAS terminal.
Read or play the message.
Then announce:
"This concludes the Emergency Alert System bulletin. All broadcast stations and cable systems may now resume normal operations."
Send EOM (This step is imperative.)
 - f. Resume normal broadcasting. Do **not** editorialize or comment on the incident as it may be construed as an official announcement. Repeat the highlights of the warning every 5-10 minutes, if possible during the period of warning.
 - g. Log it. Assure the FCC, Washington D.C. is notified in writing in accord with their request to be informed
- 4.3 Any broadcast station may activate the EAS and read the message, upon receipt of any "ACTIVATION REQUESTED" bulletin from the National Weather Service without delay or additional notification, authorization or permission.
- 4.4 All news and program personnel shall be familiar with necessity to place programming on the air with least delay. Periodic training should be conducted. Stations should use automatic EAS mode to insure public safety.
- 4.5 On-air personnel shall not ad-lib, interpret, abbreviate or alter any test or broadcast. Tests shall not be sung, set to music, include music, echo and/or other electronic alteration or production aids. This shall not preclude an operator from announcing an emergency message verbally in case of an equipment failure.

**FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO
ACTIVATE THE EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM**

- 5.1 Agencies and/or officials, specified in 5.5, are authorized to activate the Emergency Alert System by following these steps:
 - a. Write out (do not dictate) the WARNING message to be broadcast by all AM, FM, TV and Cable TV stations in this plan. This is the message you will read, as you will be the announcer when it is broadcast. (See 5.2 below.)
 - b. Contact the Stanislaus - Tuolumne Counties Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at (Hot Line) – (Hot line numbers are **NOT** for public copies.)
- 5.2 Authorized officials must use the following format to activate the EAS: "This is (Name/Title) of (Organization)(Time). I **request that the Emergency Alert System be activated for the Stanislaus - Tuolumne Counties Area because of** a (description of the emergency, location and duration.)"
- 5.3 Authorized officials and LP1 or LP2 personnel will determine the transmission details (i.e., live or recorded, immediate or delayed).
- 5.4 EAS message originators shall limit their messages to 90 seconds
- 5.5 The following authorities are authorized to activate the EAS for this Local Area: **Emergency Services Coordinator, Stanislaus - Tuolumne Counties and Police, Fire, Railroad, California Highway Patrol (CHP), Sheriff, County(s) DES Center(s), 911 Centers.**
- 5.5 The originating official(s) shall enter text of the Warning bulletin into the EDIS system as quickly as possible so that all television and CATV companies will have the message for clear text viewing by the hearing impaired. This may be done before broadcasting the voice message as it takes several minutes to create the clear text.

EDIS is transmitted in this area via 450.03 MHz. EDIS data is used to expand on the EAS information. Some stations supplement EAS messages with the data from EDIS as an adjunct for the hearing impaired and to better serve listeners and viewers since EDIS includes NWS watches and statements. This additional information can be especially important to alternative language stations.

Confidential data** to be removed from public copies of this plan

REQUIRED MONTHLY TEST

The Coordinated Monthly Test (Event Code RMT) within every Local Area is required to be carried by all broadcast stations and CATV firms. It may be carried simultaneously with the originating LP1 station, or delayed by no more than 15 minutes. [FCC Part 11.61 (a) (1)].

- 6.1 The Required Monthly Test in this FCC Local Area is conducted as follows
 - a. Daytime: First Tuesday 9:50 AM (Odd Months)
 - b. Nighttime: First Tuesday 11 :50 P M (Even Months)
- 6.2.1 The nighttime Required Monthly Test will originate from the LP1, or LP2, or a County OES Center, on the first Tuesday of the month at 11.50 p.m. for retransmission by all broadcast stations and CATV companies within the time limit prescribed by the FCC.
- 6.2.2 The daytime RMT will originate from the **LP1** or LP2 on the first Tuesday of the month at 9:50 a.m. for retransmission by all broadcast stations and CATV companies within the time limit prescribed by the FCC.
- 6.3 The Required Monthly Test will take about 55 seconds. The message may vary slightly in length and the content will be dependent on the subject chosen for the time of year and prevalent threats or potential hazards.
- 6.4 The State Emergency Operations Center or an alternate will transmit a monthly test that may be carried by any station in addition to the station's weekly test or in lieu of it's weekly test, but never in place of a Local Area's Required Monthly Test.
 - 6.4.1 The monthly State EAS test is conducted on the first Tuesday of every month unless otherwise notified. It is transmitted statewide at about 10:20 a.m. and may be rebroadcast.

COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS ORDER CA-ST COO-7

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7.0 The Local Emergency Communications Committee Chair determined that, at this time, no authentication codes are used in this Local Area Plan. However, this Communications Order is in the Plan for use should the situation change in the future.

(Change can be affected by reissuing COO-7 as an amendment rather than rewrite the entire Plan.)

7.1 **An authenticator code is NOT required for use** by those authorized to activate the Emergency Alert System by telephone. FAX or other unsecured transmissions.

7.2 The CLERS, EDIS, weather wire or other hard copy media likewise do NOT require authentication.

**FOR STATIONS THAT OPERATE EAS EQUIPMENT IN AUTOMATIC, MODE.
AUTOMATIC TESTING OF EAS EQUIPMENT, IN LIEU OF THE RANDOM REQUIRED
WEEKLY TEST (RWT),**

- 8.1 This COO provides an exemption to the FCC Rules and Regulations regarding weekly test procedures. Specifically, those stations who operate EAS equipment in the automatic mode will not be required to send an RWT on a once per week random schedule, provided they meet each of the following criteria:
- a. Two RWT style tests are conducted on the station each and every week: (a) in an automated manner, such as with the use of a timer. (b) done on a fixed schedule. (c). and occur between 11 :50 am and 3:00 am on each Monday, and Thursday. (see note 1)
 - b. The RMT will not exempt the station from the weekly test schedule,
 - c. Off air verification is required as proof that the test was actually sent over the air. [This could be an operator observation, a tape, an EAS decoder log etc.]
 - d Station shall have, and maintain, a procedure to alert the appropriate station personnel in the case of a missed weekly test, and or equipment failure.
 - e. Station must at all times operate in the automatic mode, and the EAS equipment must be programmed to auto forward all of the events listed in the COO 2 herein. (See Note 2)
- 8.2 This order has three purposes: (1) to encourage the use of automatic forwarding of emergency traffic and therefore provide a more reliable and more immediate warning to the public. (2) to reduce the time interval between equipment failure and detection of the failure, (3) to reduce public (and program directors) annoyance by the test and data packet sounds.
- 8.3 RWT does not train operators in the use of EAS equipment or procedures since RWTs at most stations are generated with a one button test.

Note 1: This schedule provides for a system check to be made 2 times per week since it has been the experience of station engineers that the EAS equipment has had a number of failures during the short amount of time that it has been in use. The purpose is to catch a system failure as soon as possible. The time of the tests are the least obtrusive times of the day and allows for stations that cease broadcasting at midnight.

Note 2: This COO seeks to encourage the use of automatic forwarding of events that require immediate dissemination to the public to protect life and property. It has been observed that there are stations that do not relay EAS alerts in a timely matter or do not relay them at all due to human error. This can occur where the station is in manual EAS mode and in the hands of minimum wage employees without the requisite skill, despite attempts at training them, to operate the EAS system.

EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM (EAS) - FCC LOCAL AREA PLAN
Stanislaus - Tuolumne Counties, California

SIGNATURES OF CONCURRENCE AND APPROVAL

Brad Johnson, Chair
Stanislaus - Tuolumne Counties Local Area FCC
Local Emergency Communications Committee

Date

Co-Chair for Cable Television
Stanislaus - Tuolumne Counties Local Area FCC Local Emergency Communications Committee

Date

Meteorologist in Charge
National Weather Service

Date

Jim Gabbert, Chairman
State Emergency Communications Committee

Date

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

Date