

LOCAL AREA
EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM PLAN
FOR THE
PIMA COUNTY OPERATIONAL AREA

**PIMA, SANTA CRUZ, COCHISE AND SOUTHERN
PINAL COUNTIES**

EFFECTIVE: October 1, 2007

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I. Purpose, Authority and Introduction

Purpose

To provide procedures developed by broadcasters within the Pima County Operational Area of the Emergency Alert System, and local area governments, to permit designated government officials to issue emergency information instructions during threatened or actual emergencies.

Authority

Title 47 U.S.C. 151, 154(i) and (o), 303(r), 544(g), and 606. Part 11, subpart a through e, Federal Communications Commission Rules and Orders, Emergency Alert System (EAS) as it pertains to day to day, local emergency operations.

Introduction

These procedures were designed by the Pima County Operational Area Local Emergency Communications Committee (LECC) in cooperation with:

The Arizona State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC)

The National Weather Service Tucson Forecast Office (NWS)

The Pima County Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security (OEM&HS), and with officials in the Pima County Operational Area (Pima, Santa Cruz, Cochise and Southern Pinal Counties) of Arizona (see **Annex -B-**).

These procedures provide background data and prescribe specific procedures for the broadcast media, at the request of designated federal, state and local government organizations to disseminate emergency information and warnings to the general public of the Pima County Operational Area, or any portion of it within the stations broadcast coverage capability. The plan may also include involvement of the broadcast media as may be appropriate in the counties contiguous or adjacent to the Pima County Operational Area.

At the local level, the EAS is a means for emergency management, public safety officials, and the National Weather Service to provide public emergency alert information quickly via commercial radio, television, cable, and satellite licensees. To broadcast a message utilizing the EAS, local agencies must contact their county emergency management agency. The county emergency management agency, upon determining the message is suitable for an EAS broadcast, will then process the message into the EAS. (See **Annex -C-** for details) Individual commercial broadcasters, cable system and satellite system operators retain all discretionary rights as provided by the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) Rules and Orders. Therefore, acceptance of or participation in this plan by members of the broadcast industry shall not be deemed as a relinquishment of program control.

This plan does not supersede, in part or whole, the Arizona EAS State Plan.

II. Definitions and References

Emergency:

An unexpected event posing an extraordinary threat to the safety of life, property or the environment requiring immediate or urgent action. Examples are: natural hazards such as tornadoes, flash floods, severe weather, wild fires, dust storms, high winds and earthquakes; technical hazards such as release of hazardous materials, widespread phone or power failure, computer managed system technology failure, industrial fires and explosions, nuclear hazards, industrial accidents with possible severe environmental pollution effects; and human caused hazards such as acts of terrorism, intentional disruption or damage to infrastructure and civil unrest.

Authorized Officials:

Persons designated by federal, state and local government as authorized to initiate Emergency Alert System broadcasts (**Annex -B-**).

Broadcast Stations:

Title 47, Part 11, Section 11.11 of the Code of Federal Regulations defines the requirements of EAS Participants, herein referred to as Broadcast Stations. They are analog and digital radio broadcast stations including AM, FM, and Low-power FM stations; analog and digital television broadcast stations including Class A television and Low-power TV stations; analog and digital cable systems; wireless cable systems; Direct Broadcast Satellite services, including certain Ku-band Fixed-Satellite Service Direct to Home providers; Satellite Digital Audio Radio Service.

References:

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) – <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov>

United States Code (USC), Title 47, Chapter 5 –

http://www.access.gpo.gov/uscode/title47/chapter5_.html

EAS Handbooks – <http://www.fcc.gov/pshs/eas>

Arizona EAS Plan – <http://azbroadcasters.org/media/ArizonaStateEASPlan.pdf>

Pima Operational EAS Plan – <http://azbroadcasters.org/easplan/PimaPlan%20-%20B1.0125.pdf>

Memorandum of Understanding for Direct Access to the Mount Lemmon NOAA Weather Radio Transmitter – Contact Pima County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security or the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Tucson, Arizona.

III. General Rules

The EAS is designed to disseminate emergency information from the national level to the local area level (**For information concerning national and state activation operations see Section V**).

The most common reason for the activation of the EAS is for the purpose of issuing weather-related warnings to a local area community. These are accomplished primarily through the National Weather Service Tucson Forecast Office (NWS), but may be initiated by other sources.

When an unusual weather event occurs, the NWS will activate the EAS and issue the appropriate message. These may come in the form of advisories, watches or warnings. These messages **may** effect all or a portion of the designated local area. A weather **advisory** contains information relating to an activity that is occurring, imminent or has a high probability of occurring which can cause significant inconvenience and, if caution is not exercised, could lead to situations that threaten life or property. A weather **watch** means that the weather condition described are favorable for hazardous weather to develop but its occurrence, location, and/or timing are still uncertain (probable). A weather **warning** means a hazardous weather event is occurring, is imminent or has a high probability of occurring. A warning is used for conditions posing a threat to life or property.

As a result of the initial EAS message, other authorized agencies may require additional activation of the system. These would include government agencies such as police or fire agencies, with additional, more detailed public safety information, such as road or bridge closures, evacuation routes, emergency shelter locations, emergency communications locations, etc.

Civil authorities may require the activation of the system to advise the community of such things as a civil disturbance or hazardous materials release and any emergency action required by citizens, etc.

When an emergency situation exists that requires the activation of the EAS, only designated persons from each authorized agency may activate the system. Local authorities may activate the EAS as described in **Annex -C-** of this plan.

Those persons authorized to activate the Pima County Operational Area of the EAS are listed in **Annex -B-** of this plan.

Those agencies authorized to activate the EAS, which do not possess the required equipment, may access the system via prior arrangement with authorized agencies that are properly equipped.

IV. EAS Monitoring Assignments and Activation

Those organizations designated to originate EAS messages (including the local area organizations in **Annex -B-**), are to do so in accordance with the provisions of the FCC Rules and Orders. This will require obtaining, maintaining and operating equipment compatible with this purpose. For detailed information about activating the EAS refer to **Annex -C-**.

EAS Monitoring Assignments and Designations

- 1) **National Primary** (NP) is a source of EAS presidential messages.
- 2) **Primary Entry Point** (PEP) system is a nationwide network of broadcast stations and other entities connected with government activation points. It is used to distribute the EAN, EAT and EAS national test messages, and other EAS messages. The designated PEP station for Arizona is **KFLT 830 AM Radio**.

- 3) **Local Primary (LP)** is a source of local area messages and is responsible for coordinating the carriage of common emergency messages from sources such as the National Weather Service or local emergency management officials as specified in this plan. If the LP1 is unable for any reason to carry out this function, LP2, the NWS or the OEM can be assigned the responsibility. The designated LP1 station for the Pima County Operational Area is **KRQQ 93.7 FM Radio**. The designated LP2 station for the Pima County Operational Area is **KNST 790 AM Radio**.

LP1 and LP2 will monitor each other, the NWS, PEP, SR, and the Broadway Consumer Network.

- 4) **State Primary (SP)** is a source of EAS messages originated at the state level. They can come from the Governor, or a designated representative in the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Messages are sent via the State Relay Network. The designated SP station is **KTAR 620 AM Radio in Phoenix**.
- 5) **State Relay (SR)** is a source of state EAS State messages. It is part of the State Relay Network and relays National and State common emergency messages to Local Areas. The designated SR station for the Pima County Operational Area is **KJZZ 91.5 FM Radio**.
- 6) **Participating National (PN)** sources transmit EAS National, State and Local Area messages.

PNs must monitor LP1 and one other source, such as LP2, NOAA Weather Radio, PEP, SR or the Consumer Broadcast Network. If a Broadcast Station is unable to monitor LP1, then LP2 must be monitored. If a Broadcast Station is unable to monitor LP1 or LP2 then one of the other stations listed above must be monitored.

- 7) **Non-Participating National (NN)** sources have elected not to participate in the National level EAS, and hold an authorization letter to that effect. Upon activation of the national level EAS, NN sources are required to broadcast the EAS codes, the Attention Signal, the sign-off announcement in the EAS Operating Handbook and then stop operating. All NN sources are required to comply with sections 11.51 and 11.61. They may transmit EAS State or Local Area messages at any time without prior notice.

EAS messages and test will be conducted in accordance with the FCC handbooks (see reference section for access to handbooks).

ANNEX -A-

Emergency Alert System Local Areas

In order to tailor emergency information to a specific area, the following Specific Area Message Encoder (SAME) Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) Codes will be used to identify portions of the Pima County Operational Area. The first digit represents the geographic code. The next two represent the state code and the last three digits represent the county code.

Pima County:

Northeast – 304019

Southeast – 904019

Western two-thirds – 404019

Southern Pinal County – 904021

Cochise County:

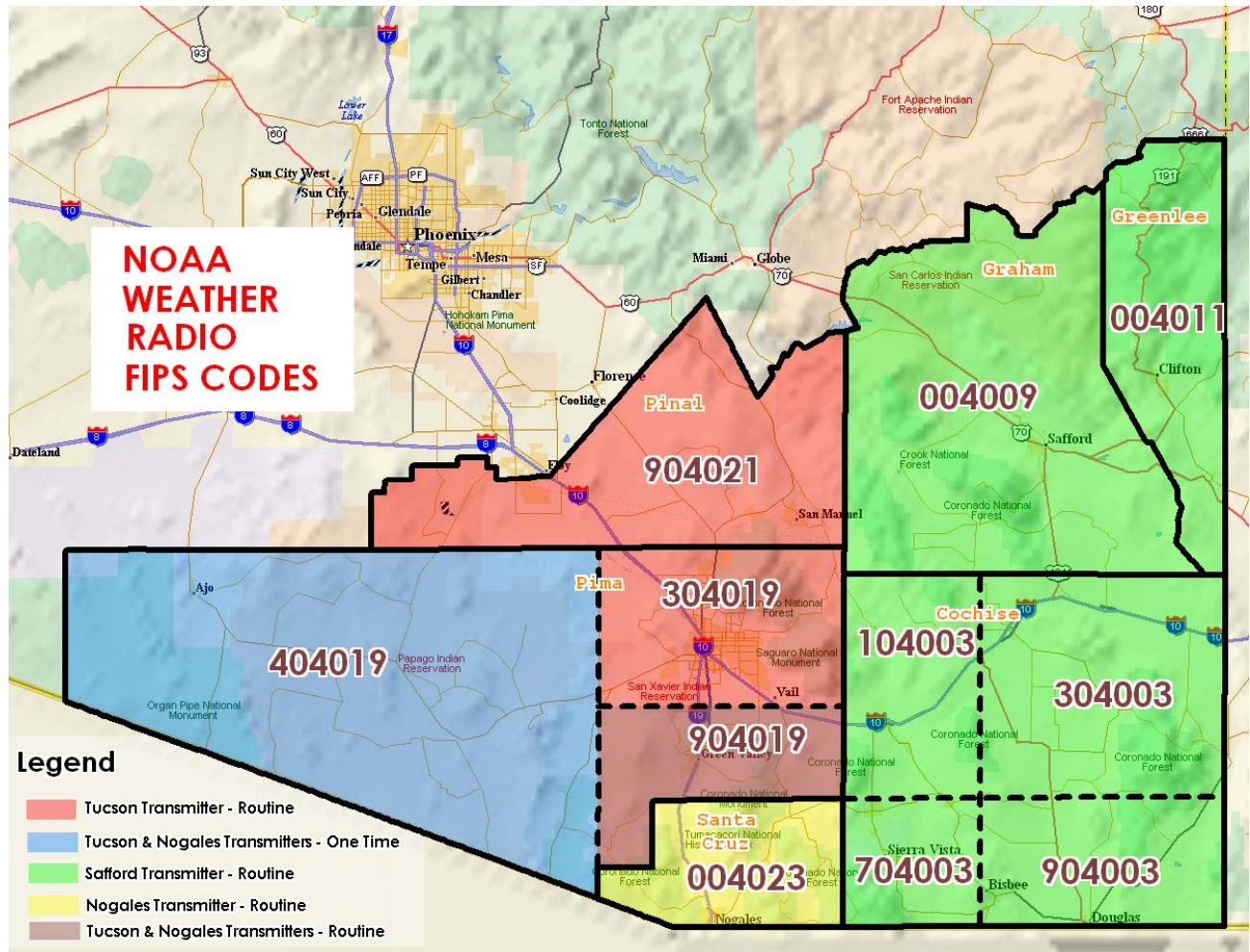
Northwest – 104003

Southwest – 704003

Northeast – 304003

Southeast 904003

Santa Cruz County – 004023



ANNEX -B-

Agencies Authorized to Activate the EAS

Pima County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security:

- | | | |
|----|--------------|----------|
| 1. | Director | 798-0600 |
| 2. | Manager | 798-0600 |
| 3. | Coordinators | 798-0600 |

Pima County Sheriff's Department:

- | | | |
|----|---|----------|
| 1. | Sheriff | 741-4900 |
| 2. | Force Commander | 741-4900 |
| 3. | Emergency Operations Division Commander | 741-4900 |
| 4. | HazMat Response Team Supervisor | 741-4900 |

National Weather Service:

- | | | |
|----|--------------|----------|
| 1. | Director | 670-5156 |
| 2. | Duty Officer | 670-5161 |

Arizona Department of Public Safety:

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|----------|
| 1. | District Commander | 746-4500 |
| 2. | Duty Officer | 746-4500 |

Santa Cruz County:

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. | Emergency Management Director | 520-375-8000 520-631-7555 |
| 2. | Sheriff | 520-287-7869 |

Cochise County:

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. | Emergency Management Director | 520-432-9550 |
| 2. | Sheriff | 520-432-9501 |

Pinal County:

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. | Emergency Management Director | 520-866-6415 |
| 2. | Sheriff | 520-866-5111 |

KRQQ 93.7 FM Radio:

1. Studio Operations 293-6180

KNST 790 AM Radio:

1. Studio Operations 326-1200

NOTE: There may be times when the designated officials are not available to activate the system or when time is a critical factor. When a designated official is not available the Pima County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security will be the primary contact for validating the request. See **Annex -C-** for additional details.

Annex -C-

EAS Activation by Local Civil Authorities

If a message cannot be entered into the EAS by an originating agency, the agency can request LP1, LP2 or the NWS to issue the EAS message. When a request for an EAS message issuance is made authentication is required. In every instance where the activation of the EAS is requested via LP1, LP2 or the NWS, the requesting agency shall furnish a call back number that will be capable of independently verifying the caller and the authority to activate the system. This verification will be made at the discretion of LP1, LP2 or the NWS. The message-originating agency must issue the message using the FCC EAS message protocol (Header, Attention Signal, Message {not to exceed two minutes}, and End of Message Codes). The procedures can be found in the EAS Operating Handbook (<http://www.fcc.gov/eb/eas/easamfm.pdf>).

In an extreme case where LP1, LP2 and the NWS cannot initiate an EAS message, the Pima County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security has the capability to broadcast an EAS message over the NWS's NOAA Weather Radio Mount Lemmon Transmitter on a frequency of 162.400 MHz. LP1 and LP2 monitor this frequency and can relay the message into the EAS.

Guideline for forwarding EAS messages:

- 1) The following messages are required to be forwarded through the EAS according to the FCC rules and orders.
 - EAN – Emergency Action Notification
 - EAT – Emergency Action Termination
 - RMT – Required Monthly Test

- 2) The following messages are forwarded on a voluntary, though highly encouraged, basis through the EAS according to the FCC rules and orders.
 - NIC – National Information Center
 - NPT – National Periodic Test
 - CAE – Child Abduction Emergency
 - CDW – Civil Danger Warning
 - CEM – Civil Emergency Message
 - DSW – Dust Storm Warning
 - EQW – Earthquake Warning
 - EVI – Evacuation Immediate
 - FRW – Fire Warning
 - FFW – Flash Flood Warning
 - FLW – Flood Warning
 - HMW – Hazardous Materials Warning
 - HWW – High Wind Warning
 - SVR – Severe Thunderstorm Warning
 - TOR – Tornado Warning
 - TOA – Tornado Watch
 - VOW – Volcano Warning
 - WSW – Winter Storm Warning

- 3) The following messages will be broadcast based on the extent and request of the originating agency in accordance to the following guidelines.

- ADR – Administrator Message – A non-emergency message that provides updated information about an event in progress, an event that has expired or concluded early, pre-event preparation or mitigation activities, post-event recovery operations, or other administrative matters pertaining to the Emergency Alert System.
- FLA – Flood Watch – A developing condition that is favorable for river flooding. It is issued when conditions may cause a river to go above its designated flood stage at the forecast point.
- DMO – Practice/Demo Warning – A message that will only be used by the Pima County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security to practice or demonstrate the capabilities of an emergency response. The broadcast will be limited to the NOAA Weather Radio Mount Lemmon Transmitter and will be coordinated with Tucson NWS office personnel prior to its issuance.
- LEW – Law Enforcement Warning – A warning of a bomb explosion, riot, or other criminal event (e.g. a jailbreak). An authorized law enforcement agency may blockade roads, waterways, or facilities, evacuate or deny access to affected areas, and arrest violators or suspicious persons.
- LAE – Local Area Emergency – An emergency message that defines an event that by itself does not pose a significant threat to public safety and/or property. However, the event could escalate, contribute to other more serious events, or disrupt critical public safety services. Instructions, other than public protective actions, may be provided by authorized officials. Examples include: a disruption in water, electric or natural gas service, road closures due to excessive snowfall, or a potential terrorist threat where the public is asked to remain alert.
- TOE – 911 Telephone Outage Emergency – An emergency message that defines a local or state 911 telephone network outage by a widespread geographic area or telephone exchange. Authorized officials may provide alternative phone numbers in which to reach 911 or dispatch personnel.
- RHW – Radiological Hazard Warning – A warning of the loss, discovery, or release of a radiological hazard. Examples include: the theft of a radioactive isotope used for medical, seismic, or other purposes; the discovery of radioactive materials; a transportation (aircraft, truck or rail, etc.) accident which may involve nuclear weapons, nuclear fuel, or radioactive wastes. Authorized officials may recommend protective actions to be taken if a radioactive hazard is discovered.
- SPW – Shelter In Place Warning – A warning of an event where the public is recommended to shelter in place (go inside, close doors and windows, turn off air conditioning or heating systems, and turn on the radio or TV for more information). An example is the release of hazardous materials where toxic fumes or radioactivity may affect designated areas.
- SVA – Severe Thunderstorm Watch – A developing weather condition that is favorable for the formation of severe thunderstorms in and close to the watch area. Severe thunderstorms produce wind in excess of 58 mph and/or hail 3/4 inch diameter or larger.
- WSA – Winter Storm Watch – A developing weather condition that is favorable for hazardous winter weather conditions to develop.

Annex -D-

Contacts

| | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| LP1 and LP2 | Clear Channel, Tucson | Mike Irby | 618-2148 |
| KRQQ 93.7 FM Radio | | Dave Shelton | |
| KNST 790 AM Radio | | | |
| PEP | Family Life Communications | Robert Mumm | 742-6976 |
| KFLT 830 AM Radio | | | |
| SP | Bonneville International Corp. | Gary Smith | 602-200-2611 |
| KTAR 620 AM Radio, Phoenix | | | |
| SR | Public Radio Partners | Chris Furphy | 480-774-8233 |
| KJZZ 91.5 FM Radio | | | |
| Comcast Communications | | Scott Anderson | 744-5423 |
| Cox Communications, Tucson | | Bart Martin | 955-0049 |
| Pima County Emergency Management and Homeland Security | | Dave Lenox | 798-0600 |
| Pinal County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management | | Pete Weaver | 520-866-6415 |
| Santa Cruz County Emergency Management | | Louis Chaboya | 520-375-8000 |
| Cochise County Emergency Services | | Mike Evans | 520-432-9220 |
| Pima County IT and Radio Services | | Gail Peterson | 884-5397 |
| Pima County RACES | | Bill Hickey | 798-0600 |
| National Weather Service Forecast Office, Tucson | | Glen Sampson Tom Evans | 670-5156 |
| Arizona SEC | | Robert Reymont | 480-820-2439 |

Annex -E-

Signatures

This plan has been approved by the Local Emergency Communication Committee, representing Pima, Pinal, Cochise and Santa Cruz counties.

David T. Lenox III

David Lenox, Coordinator
Pima County Office of Emergency
Management and Homeland Security

12-18-07

Date

Pete Weaver

Pete Weaver, Emergency Manager
Pinal County Office of Homeland
Security and Emergency Management

Oct 18, 2007

Date

Louis Chaboya

Louis Chaboya, Director
Santa Cruz County Emergency
Management

Oct 2, 2007

Date

Michael B. Evans

Mike Evans, Director
Cochise County Emergency
Services

Oct 1, 2007

Date

Dave Shelton

Dave Shelton, Engineer
Clear Channel Radio, Tucson

Dec 6 2007

Date

Michael W. Irby

Mike Irby, Director of Engineering & IT
Clear Channel Radio, Tucson

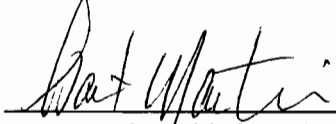
Dec. 6, 2007

Date



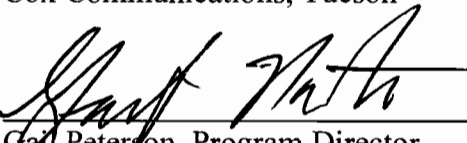
Scott Anderson, Chief Engineer
Comcast Communications, Tucson

12/6/07
Date



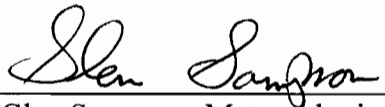
Bart Martin, Chief Engineer
Cox Communications, Tucson

12-13-07
Date



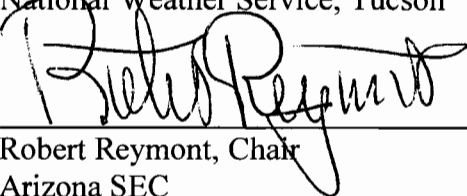
Gail Peterson, Program Director
Pima County IT and Radio Service

13 Dec 2007
Date



Glen Sampson, Meteorologist in Charge
National Weather Service, Tucson

12-18-07
Date



Robert Reymont, Chair
Arizona SEC

12-21-2007
Date