§ 11.53 Dissemination of Emergency Action Notification.

Initiation of the EAN by any one of the following sources is sufficient to begin the emergency actions in §11.54.

(a) National Level. The EAN is issued by the White House. The EAN message is sent from a government origination point to broadcast stations and other entities participating in the PEP system. It is then disseminated via EAS Participants.

1. Radio and television broadcast stations.

2. Cable systems and wireless cable systems.

3. Other entities voluntarily participating in EAS.

(b) State level and Local Area levels. EAN dissemination arrangements at these levels originate from State and local governments in accordance with State and Local Area plans.

(c) Analog and digital broadcast stations must, prior to commencing routine operation or originating any emissions under program test, equipment test, experimental, or other authorizations, determine whether the EAS has been activated by monitoring the assigned EAS sources as specified in their State or Local plan.


§ 11.54 EAS operation during a National Level emergency.

(a) The EAS Operating Handbook summarizes the procedures to be followed upon receipt of a National level EAN or EAT Message.

(b) Immediately upon receipt of an EAN message, EAS Participants must:

1. Monitor the two EAS sources assigned in the State or Local Area plan or FCC Mapbook for any further instructions. SDARS licensees and DBS providers may choose their two EAS sources, one of which must be a PEP station.

2. Discontinue normal programming and follow the transmission procedures in the appropriate section of the EAS Operating Handbook. Announcements may be made in the same language as the primary language of the EAS Participant.

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(i) Key EAS sources (National Primary (NP), Local Primary (LP), State Primary (SP), State Relay (SR) and Participating National (PN) sources) follow the transmission procedures and make the announcements in the National Level Instructions of the EAS Operating Handbook.

(ii) Non-participating National (NN) sources follow the transmission procedures and make the sign-off announcement in the EAS Operating Handbook’s National Level Instructions section for NN sources. After the sign-off announcement, NN sources are required to remove their carriers or services from the air and monitor for the Emergency Action Termination message. NN sources using automatic interrupt under §11.51(m)(1), must transmit the header codes, Attention Signal, sign-off announcement and EOM code after receiving the appropriate EAS header codes for a national emergency.

(3) After completing the above transmission procedures, key EAS and Participating National sources must transmit a common emergency message until receipt of the Emergency Action Termination Message. Message priorities are specified in §11.44. If LP or SR sources of a Local Area cannot provide an emergency message feed, any source in the Local Area may elect to provide a message feed. This should be done in an organized manner as designated in State and Local Area EAS Plans.

(4) The Standby Script shall be used until emergency messages are available. The text of the Standby Script is in the EAS Operating Handbook’s section for Participating sources.

(5) Analog and digital TV broadcast stations shall display an appropriate EAS slide and then transmit all EAS announcements visually and aurally as specified in §§11.51(a) through (e) and 73.1250(h) of this chapter.

(6) Analog cable systems, digital cable systems, and wireless cable systems shall transmit all EAS announcements visually and aurally as specified in §11.51(g) and (h).

(7) DBS providers shall transmit all EAS announcements visually and aurally as specified in §11.51(j).

(8) Announcements may be made in the same language as the primary language of the EAS participant.

(9) Analog and digital broadcast stations may transmit their call letters and analog cable systems, digital cable systems and wireless cable systems may transmit the names of the communities they serve during an EAS activation. State and Local Area identifications must be given as provided in State and Local Area EAS plans.

(10) All analog and digital broadcast stations and analog cable systems, digital cable systems and wireless cable systems operating and identified with a particular EAS Local Area must transmit a common national emergency message until receipt of the Emergency Action Termination.

(11) Analog and digital broadcast stations, except those holding an EAS Non-participating National Authorization letter, are exempt from complying with §§73.62 and 73.1560 of this chapter (operating power maintenance) while operating under this part.

(12) National Primary (NP) sources must operate under the procedures in the National Control Point Procedures.

(13) The time of receipt of the EAN and Emergency Action Termination messages shall be entered by analog and digital broadcast stations in their logs (as specified in §§73.1820 and 73.1840 of this chapter), by analog and digital cable systems in their records (as specified in §76.1711 of this chapter), by subject wireless cable systems in their records (as specified in §21.304 of this chapter), and by all other EAS Participants in their records as specified in §11.35(a).

(c) Upon receipt of an Emergency Action Termination Message, EAS Participants must follow the termination procedures in the EAS Operating Handbook.

(d) EAS Participants originating emergency communications under this section shall be considered to have conferred rebroadcast authority, as required by section 325(a) of the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. 325(a), to other EAS Participants.

(e) During a national level EAS emergency, EAS Participants may transmit in lieu of the EAS audio feed an audio feed of the President’s voice message from an alternative source,
§ 11.55 EAS operation during a State or Local Area emergency.

(a) All EAS Participants within a state (excepting SDARs and DBS providers) must receive and transmit state-level and geographically targeted EAS messages, as aggregated and delivered by the state governor or his/her designee, or by FEMA on behalf of such state governor, upon approval by the Commission of an applicable state plan providing for delivery of such alerts no sooner than 180 days after adoption of CAP by FEMA. Examples of natural emergencies which may warrant activation are: Tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, heavy snows, icing conditions, widespread fires, etc. Man-made emergencies may include: toxic gas leaks or liquid spills, widespread power failures, industrial explosions, and civil disorders.

(1) DBS providers shall pass through all EAS messages aired on local television broadcast stations carried by DBS providers under the Commission’s broadcast signal carriage rules to subscribers receiving those channels.

(2) SDARS licensees and DBS providers may participate in EAS at the state and local level and make their systems capable of receiving and transmitting state and local EAS messages on all channels. If an SDARS licensee or DBS provider is not capable of receiving and transmitting state and local EAS messages on all channels, it must inform its subscribers, on its website and in writing on an annual basis, of which channels are and are not capable of supplying state and local messages.

(b) EAS operations must be conducted as specified in State and Local Area EAS Plans. The plans must list all authorized entities participating in the State or Local Area EAS.

(c) Immediately upon receipt of a State or Local Area EAS message, EAS Participants participating in the State or Local Area EAS must do the following:

1. State Relay (SR) sources monitor the State Relay Network or follow the State EAS plan for instructions from the State Primary (SP) source.

2. Local Primary (LP) sources monitor the Local Area SR sources or follow the State EAS plan for instructions.

3. Participating National (PN) and Non-participating National (NN) sources monitor the Local Area LP sources for instructions.

4. EAS Participants participating in the State or Local Area EAS must discontinue normal programming and follow the procedures in the State and Local Area plans. Analog and digital television broadcast stations must comply with §11.54(b)(5); analog cable systems, digital cable systems, and wireless cable systems must comply with §11.54(b)(6); and DBS providers must comply with §11.54(b)(7). EAS Participants providing foreign language programming should comply with §11.54(b)(8).

5. Upon completion of the State or Local Area EAS transmission procedures, resume normal operations upon conclusion of the message.

6. The times of the above EAS actions must be entered in the EAS Participants’ records as specified in §§11.35(a) and 11.54(b)(13).

7. Use of the EAS codes or Attention Signal automatically grants rebroadcast authority as specified in §11.54(d).

§ 11.56 EAS Participants receive CAP-formatted alerts.

Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, all EAS Participants must be able to receive CAP-formatted EAS alerts no later than 180 days after