EMERGENCY PUBLIC INFORMATION

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Annex is to establish procedures for rapid dissemination of emergency public information and to outline the resources available.

II. SITUATION

A. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) is a national system developed to communicate important information to the public during emergencies. Radio Station WHO-AM (1040), Des Moines, is the originating primary relay station for the EAS.

B. The Emergency Alert System may be activated on the state, area and local level in the event of an emergency or disaster. Lyon County is in the KIWA operational area.

C. County officials could use the EAS system for the KIWA operational area to broadcast emergency instructions and information directed at the people within the county.

D. County officials should contact a CPCS-1 station for their EAS operational area to broadcast emergency information and instructions for the public to adjacent counties within their operational area. For adjacent counties outside their EAS operational area, contact the adjacent operational area CPCS-1 station to broadcast emergency information and instructions to these counties.

E. If emergency information or instructions for the public needs to be disseminated state-wide, to another state or nationally, county officials should notify station WHO, Des Moines. Telephone number 515/242-3798 (or 3798 or 3500)

F. Newspapers shall be used for disseminating written instructions to general public. Other methods of dissemination of information include flyers, local television stations KELO, KSFY.

G. Local radio stations may also be used to disseminate information and instructions to the public.

III. ASSUMPTIONS AND PLANNING FACTORS

A. There are/are no known groups of non-English speaking people or visually impaired in the County. Every household has members who can/can not adequately read the newspaper and/or understand spoken English. Any non-English speaking groups shall be identified, if possible, and interpreters for such languages be incorporated into this plan. (May be listed as attachment.)

B. In a period of increased threat of a peacetime disaster, or of a developing international crisis, public demand would develop for information on specific actions to improve chances of survival, safety, and protection of property.

C. During and after a peacetime emergency, specific protective action information and advice to the public would be essential to maximize survival and protect property.

IV. ORGANIZATION/RESPONSIBILITIES

A. The public information activities are directed by the Public Information Officer (PIO). The PIO is responsible for the collection, coordination, and dissemination of emergency public information material to the resident and transient population.

B. The Public Information Officer has been appointed by, and is the official spokesperson(s) for, the Mayor and/or County Supervisors (according to the impacted jurisdiction) and is a member of the EOC Staff. The PIO will coordinate all public information activities with the Chief Executive Officer and the Lyon County Emergency Management Coordinator.

C. The PIO will appoint a supporting staff, as needed, to assist in the public information functions and ensure the capability of 24-hour operations, when required.

D. Supporting staff responsibilities are:

1. Assistant Public Information Officer: responsible for assisting the PIO in all functional areas and activities. Performs the function of the PIO in the PIO's.

2. Rumor Control Supervisor: responsible for the operation of the Lyon County Rumor Control, ensures operators are kept updated, passes information collected to the PIO, establishes and oversees the monitoring of commercial broadcasts for accuracy and content, and advises the Lyon County Information Center.

3. Distribution Supervisor: responsible for distribution of printed material to the populace.

4. Logistics Coordinator: coordinates public information supplies and equipment requirements as well as volunteer support staff schedules, such as:

   a. Clerical support for the local Information Center,

   b. Local Rumor Control Center operators,

   c. Runners for Information Center.

E. The State Emergency Management Division PIO, in a disaster situation, has the following responsibilities:

1. Coordinates with and supports the local government PIO,

2. Releases information concerning the state's involvement and/or activities.

F. The federal agency's PIO, when federal support is activated, will have the following responsibilities:

1. Coordinates with and supports the state and local government PIOs,

2. Release information concerning the federal government's involvement and/or activities.

G. Volunteer and private organization PIOs will coordinate with the Information Center and release information concerning their own efforts.

V. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. At the time of disaster or impending disaster, the Public Information Officer, in coordination with executives of affected jurisdictions, will ensure that the following is accomplished:

1. A PIO Staff is appointed.

2. Locations are designated for:

   a. Information Center,

   b. Media Release Point,

   c. Rumor Control Center.

B. Coordination

1. The public information program requires a coordinated flow of information from all levels of government and private agencies through a central release point to ensure that only accurate information is presented (see Attachment 1). This will be accomplished through:

   a. Establishing an Information Center where close coordination and exchange of information between all key staff and department heads and the PIO will be accomplished. The Information Center will be located in or adjacent to the EOC.

   b. Collecting, compiling, and verifying information at the local Information Center before authorizing releases,

   c. Releasing information (excluding warning and alerting which is covered in Communications, Annex B) to members of the press at the Lyon County Media Release Point in the Information center by the Public Information Officer or an authorized representative. Information will also be released to the Emergency Alert System (EAS) through the Public Information Officer via telephone or two-way radio or other communications means.

   d. An Rumor Control Center may be established where citizens having questions may call to receive accurate and verified information. The telephone numbers would be released by the media. The establishment of the Rumor Control Center must be coordinated with the Communications Officer to insure there is adequate public service telephone capabilities.

   e. The PIO will obtain verbal approval from the Chief Executive of the affected jurisdiction prior to requisitioning any supplies or equipment which

would result in expenditures of local government funds.

2. Information regarding emergency shelters, feeding, and assistance programs will be disseminated throughout any emergency/disaster period. Residents will be urged through public service announcements to share their homes with evacuees.

3. A public education program, which is coordinated by the local Emergency Management Coordinator, is designed to inform the public of protective actions for a given type of emergency. As a situation develops, this education activity will be increased to include use of all available media resources in order that protective action messages reach the public frequently, redundantly, and in many formats.

C. Information Center

1. The Lyon County Information Center, located Lyon County Sheriff's Office, adjacent to the EOC, will operate 24 hours a day during the disaster period as the central point of operations for the public information activities. It will include:

   a. Office space, appropriate supplies, and phones for the Public Information Officers,

   b. Clerical support for typing news releases, keeping status boards current, etc.,

   c. Runners to assist in hand carrying,

   d. Monitors to monitor commercial broadcasts regarding disaster information and instructions being given to the public.

2. The Information Center will collect, correlate, and authenticate all disaster-related information, and develop material for release to the media (including EAS) and the general public.

3. Instructions to the public concerning protective actions will be released directly to the EAS station (by telephone or 2-way radio - as coordinated by the Communications Officer) by the PIO from the Information Center.

4. The Information Center will oversee and keep the Inquiry Center updated on disaster-related

information for dissemination to the public in response to inquiries.

5. The Information Center will monitor the commercial broadcast stations to ensure the public is receiving accurate and timely information.

D. Rumor Control Center

1. The Lyon County Rumor Control Center, located in the Sheriff's Office, will operate 24 hours a day during the disaster period answering inquiries from the public and passing information received to the Information Center and assistance requests to the EOC.

2. Telephones required will be coordinated with the Communications Officer (Annex B).

3. Personnel (operators) may be city/county employees or volunteers.

E. Media Release Point

1. The Lyon County Media Release Point is the designated point where the PIO will conduct news briefings and conferences. The location of the medial release point will be determined by specific circumstances of the emergency situation.

2. Briefings and conferences will be held at intervals which will be determined at the time, depending upon the current situation.

F. Resources

1. Emergency Public Information Packet

A package of emergency public information material is stored by the Emergency Management Coordinator and maintained by the PIO. This package contains:

Emergency Public Information - Sample News Releases: articles, handouts, and sample news releases the Emergency Management Coordinator and Public Information Officer can utilize in preparing news releases for the media.

2. "In Time of Emergency" Booklets (FEMA H-14): this booklet contains general emergency information and instructions pertinent to natural and man-made hazards. They are stored and distributed by the Emergency Management Coordinator.

3. (Other publications may be included here.)

G. Information Dissemination

1. Radio and Television

   a. EAS procedures for activation: implementation of the EAS system will be through WHO (Iowa EAS Operational Area # 515 242 3798 in accordance with Emergency Alert System Plan for Operational Area #_____. For a unique emergency situation not involving the entire operational area, local officials may request activation of the EAS through the broadcast station KIWA, serving only the affected area.

   b. Information requiring immediate broadcast will be telephoned to KIWA. Routine information will be given to the media through the media release point briefings and news conferences.

2. Printed Material

   a. Printed material, such as newspaper supplements, flyers, brochures, etc. will be prepared and/or approved at the local information center before release.

   b. Printed material (except newspaper supplements) will be delivered to local printing resources and distributed at the direction of the PIO.

   c. Emergency Public Information Newspaper Supplements: when the decision is made to release camera-ready newspaper supplements, the PIO will ensure that these materials are delivered to the Lyon County Printing/Publishing Service,. (Identify one or more printing/publishing services you have made arrangements with -- may include as a separate attachment.

      1) Lyon County Reporter Publishing Company will print the supplements and expand their normal distribution procedures to include:

         a) Volunteers will be instructed to deliver the supplements to every household in Lyon County.

         b) The postal service will be requested to deliver the supplements to every rural household.

      2) Newspaper supplements will be hand carried to central locations throughout the county, as

determined by the Public Information Officer and Emergency Management Coordinator. City and county employees and volunteers will be assigned this task. Locations for printed materials include:

a) post offices,

b) food stores,

c) city and county buildings,

d) schools,

e) shopping areas,

f) shelters and/or registration centers.

3. A list of local radio and television stations and newspapers is included in Attachment 3.

H. Support from State Agencies

1. The State Emergency Management Division is responsible for the collection, correlation, and dissemination of disaster-related information to appropriate state agencies and the Governor's Office. The State Emergency Management Division will designate a Public Information Officer who will, during a State of Emergency, coordinate all state public affairs/information efforts with the Governor's Office or Governor's Press Secretary.

2. The State Emergency Management Division will establish procedures for rapid dissemination of hazard warning and disaster-related information to the local government and the public. The State Emergency Management Division will develop a system for distribution of printed materials in support of, and in conjunction with, the local government.

3. State agencies will support local governments by providing reports of potential and existing widespread hazardous conditions.

4. The Iowa State Patrol in conjunction with the Iowa Department of Transportation will provide road conditions to affected agencies, the media, and the general public.

5. The State Emergency Management Division will coordinate use of the state warning system to ensure that all methods of dissemination are available.

6. Lyon County Sheriff will provide support for the dissemination of area and statewide disaster warnings to the general public and to the hearing impaired

7. The State Emergency Management Division's Public Information Office will work closely with the local government and provide assistance, particularly in preparing and disseminating information to the public, concerning Disaster Application Centers.

8. Subsequent to a Presidential Declaration, the Public Information Officers of all state agencies involved in disaster recovery efforts will coordinate activities with the federal agencies involved.

I. Support from Media

It is important to maintain a day to day working relationship with the station manager in order to ensure rapid dissemination of emergency public information. For example, news releases should be directed to a specific person at the radio station rather than to the "Station Manager".

VI. SUPPORT AGENCIES

A. State Agencies

1. State agencies will support local governments by providing reports of potential and existing widespread hazardous conditions.

2. The Iowa State Patrol in conjunction with the Iowa Department of Transportation will provide road condition reports to affected agencies, the media, and the general public.

3. The State EMD Public Information Officer will work closely with the local government and provide assistance, particularly in preparing and disseminating information to the public, concerning disaster application centers.

B. Federal Agencies

1. The National Weather Service has the primary responsibility for issuing weather related disaster

warnings to government officials. It is the responsibility of the government officials to take appropriate action to inform the public.

2. The National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Radio releases information directly to the public. For example, tonal activated weather radios receive the frequency on which NOAA weather information is broadcast.

3. Under a Presidential emergency or a major disaster declaration, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Public Information Officer will coordinate and be responsible for release of public information concerning federal assistance.

C. Volunteer Agencies and Organizations

Volunteer and private organizations will be evaluating the situation and making internal determinations of the level of assistance they can provide. Each organization in coordination with state and local government will be providing public information concerning their efforts.

[Guidance Notes:
Weather watches and warning are not disseminated via the Emergency Alert System. The National Weather Service provides information to the local government for release to the public --local elected officials must determine procedures for how this information is made available to the public.

Weather information directly to the public is disseminated by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) which is a part. This information is continually broadcast on specific radio frequencies. Radios may be purchased that will activate when a "Tonal Alert is sounded.

Counties associated with nuclear power plants often coordinate public information through a "Joint Public Information Center" or a "Media Release Center".

It is important to understand the difference between a "news release" and a "public service announcement".

It is recommended that the PIO conduct briefings and conferences at half hour intervals if possible.

The following may be useful in communicating with persons with disabilities such as the hearing impaired, blind, or persons who do not speak English:

Iowa Telecommunications and Technology Commission - ICN and Education Telecommunications Council
Iowa Department for the Blind
Department of Human Rights - Division of Deaf Services
Iowa Department of Human Services
Relay Iowa
AT&T Language Line

The relationship between the Pubic Information Officer and other levels of government is a two way street. Information must flow both from the state and federal levels to the local level as much as local information must be provided to the state and federal level. Information sharing is important to rumor control as well as effective response and recovery.

LIST OF ADDENDA

ITEM	TITLE	PAGE
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Attachment 2	Information Flow Chart	D-19
Attachment 3	Public Information Resources	D-20
Attachment 4	Emergency Alert System (EAS)	D-29

PUBLIC INFORMATION
EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHECKLIST

Position/Organization

PREPAREDNESS PHASE

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

_____ Alert Public Information support staff

_____ Review this Annex and Standard Operating Guidelines

_____ Update and confirm Public Information resources

_____ Release information to public pertinent to preparing for threat/hazard expected

_____ Establish liaison with all EOC officials

_____ Keep local officials updated on all Public Information matters

_____ Print Emergency Public Information (EPI) newspaper, supplements on Community Shelter and Evacuation

_____ Review procedures with radio stations for continuing broadcasting

_____ Review dissemination and distribution systems to ensure maximum coverage to residents

_____ Coordinate distribution procedures

_____ Release EPI supplements on Community Shelter on advice of Chief Executives

_____ Release EPI supplements on Evacuation on advice of state or federal government officials

_____ Contact volunteer groups who may assist with distribution

LOGISTICS COORDINATOR

_____ Coordinate facility requirements for the Information Center

PUBLIC INFORMATION
EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHECKLIST

Position/Organization

PREPAREDNESS PHASE (continued)

LOGISTICS COORDINATOR (continued)

_____ Coordinate requirements for the Media Release Point

_____ Coordinate with Communications Officer on communications requirements, including anticipated needs for additional phones

RESPONSE PHASE

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

_____ Alert Public Information Staff

_____ Release required immediate protective actions to EAS (excluding warnings and alerting, which is done by Communications Officer)

_____ Maintain contact with all EOC staff and advise Executive Staff on Public Information matters

_____ Implement media release point and set schedule for periodic briefings, as required

_____ Confirm policy on admittance of news media to disaster area with local officials

_____ Implement and assign personnel to Rumor Control Center

_____ Release Rumor Control Center telephone numbers to news media

_____ Coordinate release of all Public Information Advisors and Instructions with appropriate EOC staff

_____ Coordinate with EOC Staff on requirements for printed Public Information material which needs to be distributed

PUBLIC INFORMATION
EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHECKLIST

Position/Organization

RESPONSE PHASE (continued)

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER (continued)

_____ Coordinate distribution of all Public Information printed material to insure maximum coverage to Lyon County residents

_____ Coordinate with Registration Coordinator for distribution of EPI supplements to relocatees

LOGISTICS COORDINATOR

_____ Insure that supplies and equipment for information center are adequate and in place, as required

_____ Advise Communications Officer of communications requirements (including additional telephones)

RECOVERY PHASE

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

_____ Provide to the public instructions for the Recovery Phase

_____ Notify evacuees it is safe to return to their homes

_____ Release information regarding Community Services reopening

_____ Release safety measures and precautions applicable to hazard and recovery activities

_____ Discontinue operation of Rumor Control Center, when appropriate

_____ Notify residents where to call for seeking assistance or for special problems

_____ Discontinue operation of Media Release Point and notify media of Contact Point

_____ Discontinue operation of Information Center

PUBLIC INFORMATION
EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHECKLIST

Position/Organization

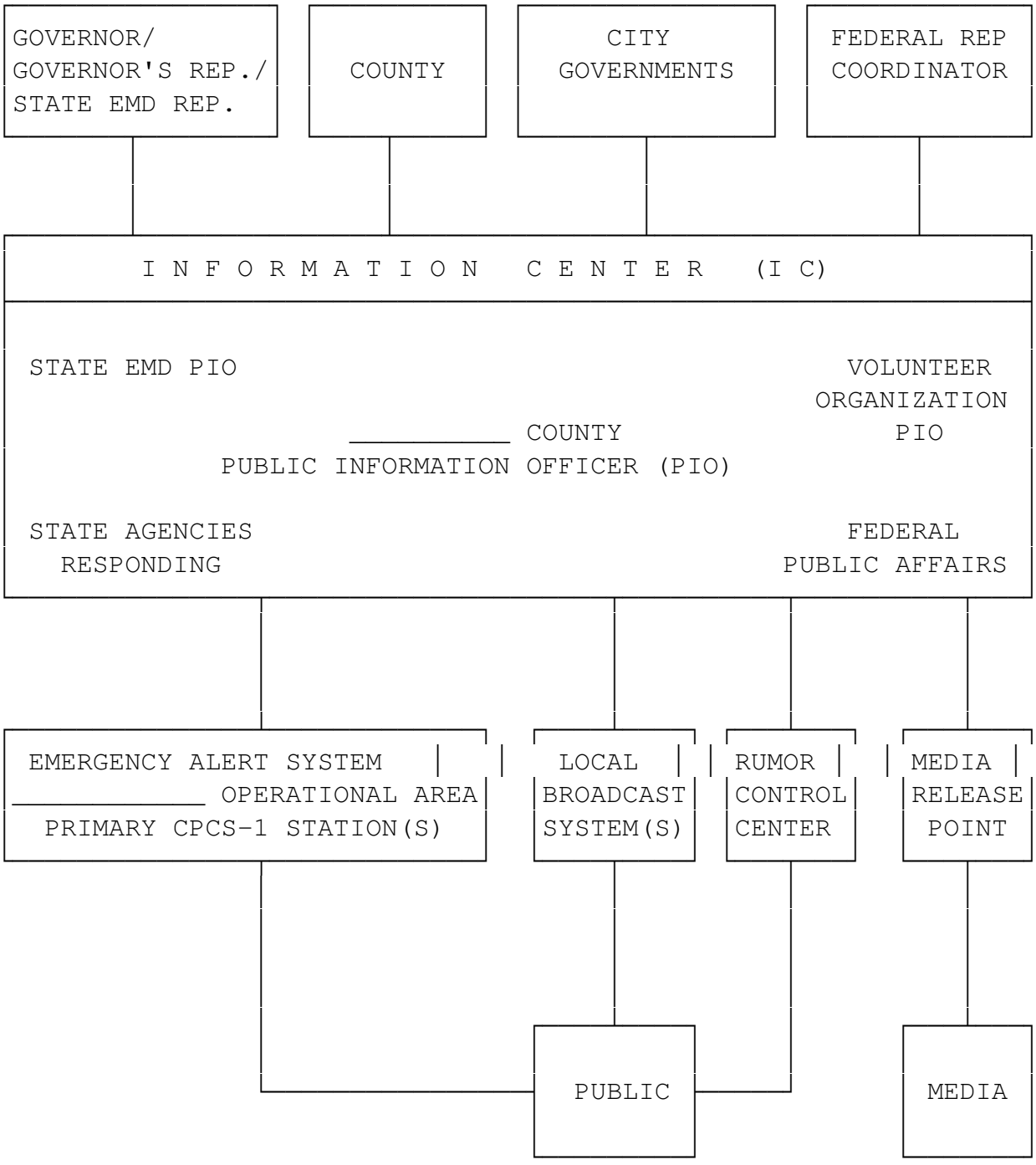
RECOVERY PHASE

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER'S STAFF

_____ Critique PIO activities with all PIO staff

_____ Review PIO Annex and SOP and implement changes to correct problems and improve operations

INFORMATION FLOW



PUBLIC INFORMATION RESOURCES

Radio

KIWA SHELDON,IOWA
KQAD LAVERNE, MINN.

Television

KELO SIOUX FALLS, S.D.
KSFY SIOUX FALLS, S.D.
KTIV SIOUX CITY, IOWA
KCAU SIOUX CITY, IOWA

Cable TV

MODERN COMMUNICATIONS ROCK RAPIDS, IOWA

Newspapers

LYON COUNTY REPORTER ROCK RPAIDS, IOWA
DOON PRESS DOON, IOWA

Iowa Statewide Emergency Alert System

I. General

A. Purpose

The Emergency Alert System (EAS) was developed at the mandate of the Federal Government to disseminate presidential messages that would have National importance. At this level, all broadcasters have mandatory participation. This same system may be used voluntarily on a state and local level for dissemination of emergency information.

B. Applications

The EAS has applications for a wide range of emergencies, and can be activated in any area of the state. Severe weather, chemical spills, nuclear power plants accidents, and severe flooding are examples of areas that can be addressed with the EAS.

C. Activation Levels

The EAS is divided into four activation levels: National, State, Operational Area (Op Area), and Local Station. Under the EAS guidelines Iowa Broadcast Stations and Cable facilities will have three designations. These designations, from highest to lowest responsibility are State Primary (SP-1), three for Local Primary (LP1-LP2-LP3), and Participating National (PN).

II. EAS Monitoring and Origination

A. Monitoring Plan

The EAS is a plan of monitoring broadcast station signals, the Iowa Communications Network (ICN), and National Weather Service (NWS) signals to provide for the dissemination of timely, life saving information to the general public.

B. State Activation

WHO radio (the state primary) in Des Moines will have the capability to originate the state level information. This capability is mirrored by the State Emergency Management Division. The information will travel on WHO 1040 kHz and also on an audio channel on the ICN. The LP1 and LP2 in each Op Area will receive this information and relay it to the local PN's.

When the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) is

activated, state officials may originate state level information directly through NWS, by way of a request to the NWS representative deployed to the SEOC.

C. Local Activation

Local stations can also originate a local EAS message with proper authorization from local officials and/or station management. Prior coordination by local officials responsible for county Emergency Operating Centers (EOCs) should be done on an Op Area basis with the LP1, LP2 and LP3s. PN stations may also be included, but only when authorized by the county emergency management coordinator, the sheriff, or the local police chief.

D. Other Participants

1. The National Weather Service

The National Weather Service (NWS) is included in the monitoring chain. All stations are urged to install equipment to monitor the local NWS VHF transmitting signal. Not all areas may reliably receive these signals at this time.

2. Cable Television

Cable service providers are also part of the EAS. They should over-ride all cable channels and provide the audio and video crawls of the emergency information. A provision of this plan is that local broadcast TV stations may request cable operators not over-ride their signals.

E. EAS Program Priorities

- Priority One ---- Presidential messages
- Priority Two ---- Operational (local) area programming
- Priority Three ---- State programming
- Priority Four ---- National programming and news

> **Note**: The focus here is on Priority Two and Priority Three. Priority One and Priority Four level programming is explained in the National EAS plan.

III. Testing

A. Monthly State-wide Testing

1. A provision of the EAS is once-a-month state initiated test. In odd number months the test will be initiated between 8:54 AM and 8:59 AM by the State Primary (WHO AM) on

the first Wednesday of the month. In the even numbered months the test will be originated by WHO AM between 2:50 AM and 2:59 AM on the first Wednesday of the month. With prior agreement between WHO and the State EMA office, testing may be initiated by the State EMA office using the above times and dates.

2. Those facilities that are not on the air for the overnight RMT shall run it within 15 minutes after sign-on later that day.

3. After receipt of the test a broadcast station may delay it up to 15 minutes to fit it into its programming. Noncompliance with this time frame may result in a fine by the FCC.

4. Class "D" FM's and Low Power Televison (LPTV) stations are not required to transmit the test but do need to log receipt of the test.

B. Required Weekly Test

To be performed by all broadcast and cable operators once per week on a random basis between the hours of 8:30AM and local sundown. Class "D" FM's and LPTV are not required to transmit this test but must log receipt.

IV. Activation Procedures

A. State Level Activation

A state level activation request will start with the Governor or persons authorized by the Governor. This request will be made to WHO AM or the National Weather Service. They will then follow the State Level Activation procedures to comply with the request. If WHO is not available, the State Emergency Operations Center can initiate the State Level Activation.

Note: A request for state level activation must meet certain criteria for it to be valid:

1. It must originate with the Governor or his designate.
2. It must be for emergency information only.
3. The need for the information must be immediate to protect life and property.
4. The reliability and immediacy of other communications systems are in question.

B. Operational (Local) Area Activation

1. Organization of Operational Areas

The "Operational Area" designation is assigned to twelve areas around the State of Iowa that were chosen based on the coverage and listenership to certain key radio stations (i.e., the coverage of dominant AM stations at the time). These Op Areas can be instantly divided into county activations under the EAS. With this ability to segment the Op Areas, the need for activation by a local station is reduced. Most "Local Area" activations would likely need to include all of an area's broadcasters and not just one station. This plan does not exclude the individual broadcaster from activating the EAS if conditions warrant, nor does it mandate that a broadcaster run EAS if it decides that message content does not apply to the listeners (viewers) of your coverage area or cable system.

2. Authorization for Activation

The authorization for activation will normally come from the National Weather Service (NWS) or local Emergency Operating Centers. Activation requests should follow established procedures written into the "Op Area Plan".

> **Note**: Op Area Plans should detail *who* can initiate EAS activation, and under *what circumstances* EAS activation should take place. This planning will protect the public from poor information and the station and local officials from credibility problems.
>
> In the case of Op Areas including a nuclear generating facility, these plans and all scripts are written in advance and reviewed at times to ensure that correct understandable information is given to the public. Such existing plans make good models for other local emergency situations and can be adapted without much trouble.

C. Activation by National Weather Service Personnel

NWS personnel should issue EAS weather related alerts via Weather Wire, and on NOAA weather radio using the NOAA-SAME (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration-Specific Area Message Encoding) EAS codes. NWS procedures should be followed relating to the transmission of the SAME/EAS codes, the 1050hz alert tone, and the reading of the weather bulletin script. If NOAA weather radio is used to communicate all-hazard warnings, NOAA personnel should use the procedures established for non-weather alerts.

D. Activation by Local Emergency Operation Centers/Officials

The EAS is a tool for disseminating accurate and timely emergency messages to the public that will be heard over most of the broadcast and cable entities in the affected area.

The entry point should be the LP1 station for the Operational Area. Most county/local alerts would still need the services of many broadcasters to get the message to the public. Written plans and agreements will ensure successful operation of the EAS. Keep in mind that the limited scope that this system is being used for **"life threatening"** emergencies.

Note: At some point, local jurisdictions should install EAS equipment at the EOC or some other designated point. Keep in mind that some of the decoders at the broadcast and cable head ends are automated and will pass **exactly** the message you have originated. This places a burden on the originator to be accurate and concise in the information to be passed along. The plans generated for failures at nuclear generating facilities are a good guide for this type of messaging. For further information, contact FEMA or the State EOC.

Also, maintaining a good relationship with the broadcasters and cable operators of your area will help to ensure that the public is served well in times of crisis.

E. Nuclear plants:

By Federal regulation, nuclear power generating facilities must have written agreements with key players in the EAS. These facilities serve as a guaranteed source of information for evacuation should a nuclear accident occurs. It is the state's responsibility, however, to decide whether or not to issue a Protective Action to the public based on information from a nuclear plant. At this writing, the maximum elapsed time from the decision to issue a Protective Action by the state, until the broadcaster or cable operator airs the message, must be less than 15 minutes. With the capabilities of EAS, this time should be easily achievable. It is recommended that the local EOC responsible for the power plant activate the EAS by communicating the Protective Action to the appropriate broadcaster(s)/cable provider(s). Note also that the message length is currently 2 minutes maximum under EAS.

F. Industrial Plants

Industrial plants should coordinate with the local EOC for their area to activate the EAS. Prior planning and scripting

of disasters by plant personnel for each type of potential accident will make EAS more effective when an actual emergency occurs. These pre-written statements will shorten response time and may save lives. Local emergency management and/or local EOC staff should be able to provide planning assistance to industry.

VI. Summary

The Emergency Alert System offers a rapid, reliable, and accurate notification system for a wide variety of emergency situations that can occur in a given area. This includes, but is not limited to, severe weather notifications, hazardous materials incident information, and road closings or detours resulting from local emergency situations.

The Emergency Alert System is available to the general public. The only requirement for reception of EAS broadcasts is an AM/FM radio or a television tuned to any station that broadcasts the EAS tones. EAS tone-activated radios are also available for purchase. When activated this radio will produce an alert tone followed by the emergency message for that area.

ACRONYMS

AFSK	Audio Frequency Shift Keying
AM	Amplitude Modulation
AP	Associated Press
ASCII	American Standard Code for Information Interchange
BPS	Bits per second
BZW	Blizzard Warning
CATV	Cable Television
CEM	Civil Emergency Message
CEW	Civil Emergency Warning
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CIV	Civil Authority
CONELRAD	Control of Electromagnetic Radiation (prior to EAS and EAS)
DMO	Practice/Demo warning
EAN	Emergency Action Notification
EAS	Emergency Alert System
EAT	Emergency Alert Termination
EAS	Emergency Alert System (prior to EAS)
EMA	Emergency Management Association
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
EOM	End of Message
EPZ	Emergency Planning Zone
EVI	Evacuation Immediate
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FFA	Flash Flood Watch
FFS	Flash Flood Statement
FFW	Flash Flood Warning
FIPS	Federal Information Processing Standards
FLA	Flood Watch
FLS	Flood Statement
FLW	Flood Warning

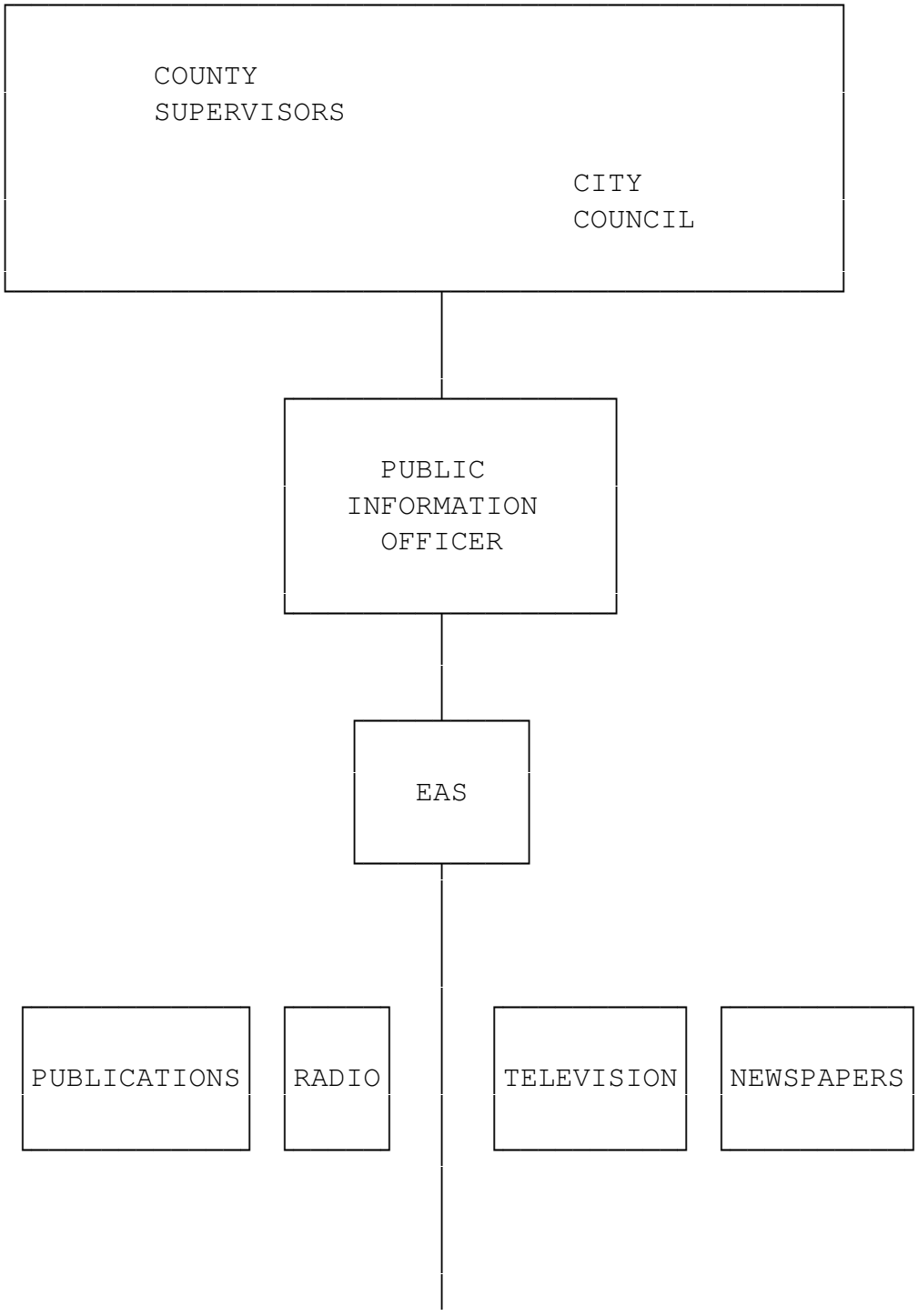
FM	Frequency Modulation
Hz	Hertz
IPW	Industrial Plant Warning
LAA	Local Activation
LECC	Local Emergency Communications Committee
LP	Local Primary
LPTV	Low Power Television
NAWAS	National Warning System
NIC	National Information Center
NN	Non-participating National
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NP	National Primary
NPT	National Periodic Test
NUW	Nuclear Plant Warning
NWR	NOAA Weather Radio
NWS	National Weather Service
PEP	Primary Entry Point
PN	Participating National
RBDS	Radio Broadcast Data System
RMT	Required Monthly Test
RPU	Remote Pickup Unit (Marti)
RWT	Required Weekly Test
SAME	Specific Area Message Encoding
SBE	Society of Broadcast Engineers
SCTE	Society of Cable Telecommunications Engineers
SECC	State Emergency Communications Committee
SMATV	Satellite Master Antenna Television
SP	State Primary
SPS	Special Weather Statement
SR	State Relay
STA	State Activation
STS	State Test
SVA	Severe Thunderstorm Watch

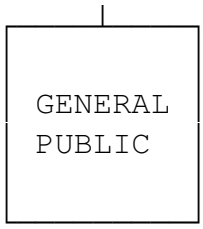
SVR	Severe Thunderstorm Warning
SVS	Severe Weather Statement
TOA	Tornado Watch
TOR	Tornado Warning
TV	Television
UPI	United Press International
UTC	Coordinated Universal Time
VHF	Very High Frequency
WCHA	White House Communications Agency
WRSAME	Weather Radio Specific Area Message Encoding
WSA	Winter Storm Watch
WSW	Winter Storm Warning

Annex D

EMERGENCY

PUBLIC INFORMATION

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PUBLIC