



Public Alerting Workgroup Meeting Notes

February 16, 2021

Time: 10 - 11 a.m.

Location: Conference Call

Microsoft Teams Meeting Information in Appointment

AGENDA

As of: 2/17/2021 9:13:41 AM

10:00	<p>Welcome and Roll Call</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jaclyn Barcroft, Sgt. Ron Bush, Rob Dale, Lt. Jeff Yonker, Ryan Wilkinson, Mary Piorunek, Lt. Josh Collins, Lt. Tim Ketvirtis, Lt. Nate McQueen, Donna Northern, James Buford, Thom Hardesty, Brianna Briggs, Dan Kelley, Lyndsay Stephens, Matt Zika 	5 minutes
10:05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Priorities of the Workgroup <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on Request for Proposal – Jaclyn Barcroft <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created a new scope of work and have solicited direct quotes from vendors for only IPAWS for all state alerting authorities. Also have requested pricing for the Opt-In Mass Notification component if agencies would like to purchase that as well. Hoping to hear back by next week Friday and be able to move forward. Cross Border Alerting Coordination – Sgt. Ron Bush <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated MOU for cross border alerting coordination (see attached) Update alerting applications to include the other counties that you will be messaging with. Berrien – has exercise through IPAWS lab (EAS and WEA) across the county line. Have also done live WEA test. Have a county that will be doing a live cross-county WEA test. Press releases to go out to let the public Next meeting – review strategic priorities of this work group (see attached) State and Federal Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working Group (RECCWG) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michigan participation has grown in the past year. Planning for a region wide communications tabletop exercise “Operation Frostbite” on March 30 & April 1. Participants will include Berrien Co, Hillsdale Co, MSP, DTMB-MPSCS, SEOC, AUXCOMM participants FEMA IPAWS Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TIP #33: The IPAWS Lab 24/7 Technical Services Support Desk (TSSD) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toll-free number for the lab (1-84-IPAWSLAB or 1-844-729-7522) Technical failures issuing a live alert, troubleshooting errant alerts and explanation of error codes, proficiency demonstrations and practice alerts, alerting best practices, webinars (during business hours) to support training initiatives, exercise participation, other IPAWS-related initiatives. https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSFEMA/bulletins/2bab9b3 Appearing on Billboards Around the Nation: FEMA Emergency Alerts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On December 8, 2020, FEMA announced a partnership with Lamar Advertising Company to display emergency alerts. The alerts are transmitted over FEMA’s Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) on select Lamar digital billboards 	50 minutes

throughout the country.

- <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSFEMA/bulletins/2b02ab0>
- ? : Which event codes will be displayed on the billboards?
 - Lamar will display all WEA messages directed to the county where the display panel is located **IF** they have an open slot in the their client rotation. Digital display panels apparently have 6 display slots that are displayed for about 20 seconds each in rotation.
 - **FAQs attached**
- FEMA's Individual and Community Preparedness Division (ICPD)
 - In 2020, ICPD launched the Protective Actions Research site, which contains guidance for 12 hazards.
 - <https://community.fema.gov/ProtectiveActions/s/>
 - Webinar link:
<https://femaipawslab.webex.com/ec3300/eventcenter/recording/recordAction.do?siteurl=femaipawslab&theAction=archive>
- Michigan Association of Broadcasters
 - UP Central – LP2 reached out to local EM's – 3 will participate in the RMTs. Working with them doing weekly test to get them trained properly.
 - Ron – 7 counties have COG. Only 4 do the RMTs – when should they contact their broadcasters. Contact Dan/Dale (Kalamazoo). See if they can be worked into that.
- State Emergency Communications Committee
 - Tentative meeting scheduled for March 24 – 10AM – revision of state plan.
- National Weather Service
 - Some tests ongoing, sometime this year will allow NWEM sent through IPAWS to come back through the weather radio automatically.
 - Ron – working with N. Webster NWS office on process for them to send out alerts as backup for an EM, every year the challenge codes that can be used if they have to call the weather service directly to send out a message. Will not activate WEA, only EAS and Weather Radio.
 - Testing out sending an email to N.Webster when they send an IPAWS message so the NWS can send out a message over weather radios.
- Region Updates – Primary Region Representative
 - Region 1
 - Statewide tornado drill, sending out WEA test message (similar to WA state)
 - Region 2
 - Macomb Co looking into purchasing IPAWS/Mass Notification system.
 - Region 3
 - Keeping up with monthly tests
 - Region 5
 - 2 outstanding counties without IPAWS MOUs
 - Regional communication board met twice since last meeting
 - 5 counties doing live RMTs
 - Working with local broadcasters on EAS, working on backup process in case IPAWS is down. Use MPSCS fire pagers to trigger alerts at the broadcast station.
 - Berrien Co -live WEA test in January, doing this now on a monthly basis, have done public safety announcements to let the public know what to expect. Nuclear Power Plant working to remove siren system, plan to use WEA as a primary notification system. By doing test monthly allows for reasonable assurance the public is able to receive these alerts. Link in message to a survey tool to answer questions on whether or not they received the test. Seems to be working well so far.
 - Region 6
 - Several jurisdictions have renewed their IPAWS/Mass Notification system contracts (HSGP grant funds)
 - New subcommittee structure, mirroring Interop structure. Previously all 5

	<p>subcommittees under one massive group – all blended together. Was confusing. 2 subcommittee chairs. First meeting recently.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regional TIC plan – desperately needs to be updated. Working on a regional basis to do that. ▪ Conducting monthly IPAWS testing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Region 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No report ○ Region 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IPAWS Monthly Proficiency Demonstrations – Jaclyn Barcroft <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FEMA IPAWS office is starting to make good on their promise to remove alerting privileges for alerting authorities that do not complete their proficiency demonstrations. ○ DHS Science & Technology Directorate – Consulting firm to develop Alerts, Warnings, and Notifications (AWN) Guidance Tool – Jaclyn Barcroft https://gcn.com/articles/2021/02/10/ipaws-tool-lab.aspx?s=gcnps_110221&oly_enc_id= ○ IPAWS Independent Study Courses Update – Sgt. Ron Bush <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nicely refreshed – take a look and provide any feedback to Ron ○ Technical Information – Open Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PBS Website for WEA Alerts – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shows WEA alerts nationwide. • Berrien Co dispatch plans to have the screen up all the time to see if a neighboring jurisdiction has sent an alert. • https://wam.pbs.org/ - Map of alerts nationwide • https://pbs.org/warn - Information about their program • Upcoming Meeting Schedule – Jaclyn Barcroft <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 3rd Tuesday of the month quarterly (Feb, May, Aug, Nov) ○ Next Meeting – May 18, 2021 10 a.m. <i>(Date may have to change based on 2021 Interoperability Conference)</i> • Identify Next Steps/Action Items – Jaclyn Barcroft 	
10:55	Final Review and Comments	5 minutes