



Public Alerting Work Group

April 24, 2024

Time: 10 - 11 a.m.

Location: Microsoft Teams

Microsoft Teams Meeting Information in Appointment

Vision Statement: To ensure Michigan emergency management programs and broadcast partners are prepared to alert the public effectively and efficiently during crisis situations.

Mission Statement: To provide, promote, and coordinate public alerting awareness and education in support of local and state government agencies in conjunction with broadcast partners.

Meeting Notes

- Strategic Priorities of the Work Group (from SCIP)
 1. Increase the number of alerting authorities (AA) with access to IPAWS.
 - 82 AA, 71 out of 83 counties (86%) – Roscommon & Otsego Counties newest AAs
 - Alcona, Sanilac, Keweenaw, Dickinson, Baraga, Manistee have all started the process with FEMA, but they need to complete the steps.
 2. Increase the number of PA 390 programs with IPAWS messaging incorporated into EOP.
 3. Augment public alerting education for alerting authorities.
 - Basics of Public Alerting in Michigan webinar April 10 – recording to be posted on Public Alerting WG webpage.
 4. Promote SECC/LECC meeting participation.
 5. Update State and Local EAS Plans.

- State and Federal Updates
 1. Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working Group (RECCWG) – no update
 2. Michigan Association of Broadcasters/ State Emergency Communications Committee
 - Statewide Tornado Drill: No difficulties reported, though confusing some broadcasters was an erroneous shelter-in-place warning for Livingston County sent the morning of the 1pm drill and EAS RMT.
 - FCC state plan has now been approved four times, the last two due to some revisions in the plan, primarily with monitoring assignments for individual stations. The last approval after changes came March 25 after we made some adjustments to account for state relay WCML-FM in Alpena being off-air after a fire destroyed their transmitter building. The plan was adjusted to allow the LP stations in the Northeast Region (Alpena) the option to use another of the CMU radio stations to receive alerts, after confirming that they are able to receive an alternate CMU station.
 - As the FCC requires our plan to be reviewed and approved annually, we're in pretty good shape as it appears the FCC reviews it all anytime a change is made, no matter how minor.
 - A few cases of EAS RMTs not being run as scheduled, both at the broadcast station level and at the alerting authority level where we have those programs in place. I'd like to be able to set up an automated email reminder for each LP station and participating alerting authority in a region as a reminder to run the test as scheduled, but I am not there yet.
 - Statewide Meetings: after a busy first quarter for both Dan and Jaclyn, we shall start planning regional meetings.
 3. National Weather Service – no updates
 4. FEMA IPAWS Office
 - Co-sponsored meeting with FEMA, CISA, & FCC – hosting 2024 National Meeting of Senior Alerting Officials – April 30-May1. Jaclyn Barcroft to attend.
 - Training for the Message Design Dashboard continues – <https://bentearsolutions.com/learn2warn>
 - May 9, June 6, July 11, August 1 (1-4PM) virtual

- Contract ends at the end of Sept – unsure what training will be like after that point.
 - 30-minute touchpoint with alerting authorities
 - FEMA Community of Practice Webinar for Alert and Warning – May 8 (1:30-4PM) (see attached email)
 - [PIEP May Webinar | Me, Myself, and IPAWS: How Alerts are Created and Disseminated and How You Can Test Them](#) – May 15 1:30-2:30 PM
- Region Updates – Primary Region Representative
 1. Region 1 – No significant updates
 2. Region 2 – No significant updates
 3. Region 3 – Alcona and Sanilac in process. Huron Co is not in process. Dispatch centers are now working together as a group to coordinate IPAWS. Iosco Co has sent out 3 boil water alerts in the last 6 months. One had trouble, but they caught their mistake and corrected it. Working on MOA renewals. Cross-border MOA -
 4. Region 5 – No significant updates
 5. Region 6 –
 - Grand Rapids used the Message Design Dashboard to create the alert message for a boil water advisory in March. They received a lot of positive feedback from Dr. Sutton and other SME's.
 - Muskegon and Oceana Counties are working on a cross-border MOU.
 - Ottawa Co recently intended to send out just a WEA message for an issue and didn't realize that EAS was automatically selected in their software (InformaCast) so it went out county-wide. They have since decided to use CodeRED as their primary IPAWS tool and InformaCast as the backup with explicit instructions on how to use it.
 6. Region 7 –
 - Roscommon and Otsego Counties are the newer AAs – both have completed a few monthly PDTs.
 - Missaukee Co has started the process of becoming an IPAWS AA. Manistee still working on it.
 7. Region 8 – No significant updates
- Other Business
 1. Redundant EAS – MSP/EMHSD still working our way through paperwork.
 2. Webinar – 4/24/24 2:00-3:00 PM [Confidence Through Competence™: How to Shift Your Mindset and Use IPAWS With Authority](#)
- Upcoming Meeting Schedule
 1. 1st Wednesday of the month quarterly (Feb, May, Aug, Nov)
 2. Next Meeting – August 7, 2024, 10 a.m.
- **Identify Next Steps/Action Items –**
 1. Follow up with the following counties to help them complete the IPAWS Alerting Authority application process (screenshot below):
 - Region 3: Sanilac, Huron, Gladwin, Alcona
 - Region 5: Branch
 - Region 7: Manistee, Wexford, Missaukee, Montmorency,
 - Region 8: Dickinson, Baraga, Keweenaw
 2. Consider cross-border MOUs with your neighboring counties to assist with alert escalation.

