



Public Alerting Work Group

August 7, 2024

Time: 10 - 11 a.m.

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)
 - Increase the number of alerting authorities (AA) with access to IPAWS.
 1. 83 AA, 72 out of 83 counties (87%) – Keweenaw County newest AA
 2. 11 remaining counties: Alcona, Baraga, Branch, Dickinson, Gladwin, Huron, Manistee, Missaukee, Montmorency, Sanilac, Wexford
 - Increase the number of PA 390 programs with IPAWS messaging incorporated into EOP.
 1. Public Alert and Warning Preparedness - FEMA is requiring grant recipients/subrecipients to include exercise objectives centered on practicing and validating their plans and procedures for sending emergency alerts to the public through IPAWS. (see attached)
 - Augment public alerting education for alerting authorities.
 - Promote SECC/LECC meeting participation.
 1. Michigan Association of Broadcasters (MAB) and EMHSD have started meeting with the EAS Areas – including all local AAs, National Weather Service, local broadcasters. Met with 5 of the 14 areas, 3 meetings are currently being scheduled.
 - Choosing Co-Chairs of LECCs – one broadcaster, one alerting authority
 - Update State and Local EAS Plans.
 1. Addressed in the LECC meetings. Goal to have them all updated by end of 2024. A template plan has been provided.
- State and Federal Updates
 - Regional Emergency Communications Coordination Working Group (RECCWG)
 1. FEMA Region 5 RECCWG IPAWS Group met on 6/12/24, meeting again 8/13/24.
 - Michigan Association of Broadcasters/ State Emergency Communications Committee
 1. Toured WJR Primary Entry Point (PEP) station on 7/16/24 with several local emergency managers from SE Michigan.
 - National Weather Service – No updates
 - FEMA IPAWS Office
 1. Refreshed IS-251 Course, IPAWS for Alerting Authorities (see attached)
 2. IPAWS Newsletter Issue 8, 2024 came out on 7/9/24 (see attached)
 3. Coming Soon: The Alerting Tools Portal - one-stop-shop for IPAWS testing and training resources, including: Message Design Dashboard, Message Viewer, IPAWS-OPEN Status Indicator, Proficiency Demo Scenario Builder.
 4. Training: Effective Message Writing and the Message Design Dashboard
<https://bentearsolutions.com/learn2warn>
 - in person training being discussed.
 5. IPAWS Alerting Authority Assistive Tool Platform (ATP) – {Message Design Dashboard}
<https://atp.aws.fema.gov/>
- Region Updates – Primary Region Representative
 - Region 1: Recent alert from Gratiot Co – EM did not know it was being sent. Fair director went direct with 911 office ended up being a swatting call.

- Region 2: Brian Kahn (Livonia) – had water main break, 2/3 of city without water for a short period of time. When should/ should we not use IPAWS for boil water alerts. Issue was corrected within 20 minutes, but out of an abundance of caution asked them to boil water. Rob Dale suggested it is fine to do as long as you use **public safety** not imminent threat WEA handling code setting. In the message you should share the details on where the public can get more info and specific info on how long to boil, what you can/cannot do with the water, etc.
 1. Question: For the tornado in Livonia, no alert was sent, why not?. No indication of tornadic activity before it occurred. No info was sent from NWS, or weather spotters, it was just so quick. NWS likes to see consistency of the signature, before issuing a warning and it was only saw in one pass when they went back to review afterwards.
- Region 3: No update.
- Region 5: David Albers – just continue with monthly testing
- Region 6: Required Monthly Test (RMT) was accidentally sent out instead of a Required Weekly Test (RWT) to WEA only during a Newaygo County exercise. They are reviewing what happened.
- Region 7: No report
- Region 8: No report

- Other Business

- Redundant EAS – Updated boiler plate language that “the department must allocate funds to a nonprofit statewide association that represents broadcasters to implement statewide redundant EAS....” Awaiting MSP finance to give guidance on how to accomplish.
- Required Monthly Proficiency Demonstration Tests - Jonathan Williams inquired if they were compliant. (see attached)

- Upcoming Meeting Schedule

- 1st Wednesday of the month quarterly (Feb, May, Aug, Nov)
- Next Meeting – November 6, 2024, 10 a.m.

- Identify Next Steps/Action Items

- Help remaining counties become IPAWS Alerting Authorities.
- Help counties that have not been completing monthly proficiency demo to get started again. (see attached)