

SHENANDOAH VALLEY
LOCAL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

LOCAL AREA PLAN
February 3, 2009

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Contents

- I. Intent, Purpose and Distribution of this Plan
- II. The National, State and Local EAS: Participation by Broadcasters
 - A. National EAS Participation
 - B. State / Local EAS Participation
 - C. Conditions of EAS Participation
- III. The Shenandoah Valley Emergency Communications Committee
- IV. Organization and Concepts of the EAS
 - A. EAS Designations
 - B. Other Definitions
- V. EAS Protocol Code Information
 - A. EAS Protocol Code and Sequence
 - B. Originator Codes
 - C. Event Codes used in the LECC
 - D. Location Codes
 - E. "L-Code" Station Identifiers
- VI. EAS Tests
 - A. Required Weekly Test (RWT)
 - 1. Transmission
 - 2. Reception
 - B. Required Monthly Test (RMT)
 - 1. Transmission
 - 2. Scheduling of RMT's: Week and Time of Day
 - 3. Reception / Re-transmission
 - C. Time Duration and Jurisdiction-Location Codes to be Used
- VII. Event Scripts and Formats
 - A. Test Scripts and Formats
 - B. Event Activation Scripts and Formats
- VIII. Guidance for All Users in Programming their EAS Decoders
 - A. Modes of Operation
 - B. Suggested Event Code Programming for your Decoder
- XI. Guidance for Originators of EAS Alerts
 - A. Guidance for Emergency Services Personnel
 - B. Guidance for Nuclear Plant and Industrial Plant Personnel
 - C. Guidance for Law Enforcement - AMBER Alerts

Shenandoah Valley Emergency Alert System
LOCAL AREA PLAN

Contents, Pg. 2.

Appendix A: Local Activation

1. Emergency Services Request Authority
2. Emergency Services Request Procedure
3. LP Station Activation Procedure

Appendix B: Local Event Code Definitions

Appendix C: Local Government Emergency Coordinators

Appendix D: Monitoring Assignments

Appendix E: Broadcaster Roster

Appendix F: Alias Identifiers on file

Appendix H: Agreements with LP Stations

Appendix Z: Revisions

Shenandoah Valley Emergency Alert System
LOCAL AREA PLAN

I. Intent, Purpose and Distribution of this Plan

Serving the Counties of Augusta, Page, Rockingham and Shenandoah, and the cities of Harrisonburg, Staunton and Waynesboro, the Shenandoah Valley Emergency Alert System operates under the direction of the Shenandoah Valley Local Emergency Communications Committee (LECC), a local component of the Virginia State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC), as established by the Federal Communications Commission, and in cooperation with the Federal Emergency Management Administration, the National Weather Service and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

This Plan is the FCC-Mandated document outlining the organization and implementation of the Shenandoah Valley Emergency Alert System (EAS). It is the guideline for broadcasters and cable TV operators to determine their mandated and optional monitoring assignments, codes to be used in the EAS Header sequence, schedule of Required Monthly tests which must be relayed by all broadcasters and cable operators within 1 hour of reception and any other elements of the EAS which are unique to this local area. This plan is an adjunct to the FCC EAS Rules, and is not meant to be a summary, in whole or in part, of those rules. Consult FCC Rules part 11 for general rules regarding the Emergency Alert System.

This plan is incorporated by reference into the State Plan for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The LECC shall post the most current *public* version (although not necessarily SECC/FCC approved) copy of this plan on the internet at va-eas.org. Additional local area information, such as RMT schedules, will also be available on that website.

II. The National, State and Local EAS: Participation by Broadcasters

A. National EAS Participation

All broadcasters and cable operators are required to participate in the National level EAS. "PN" (Participating National) stations and all cable operators would carry the Presidential message, "NN" (Non-Participating National) stations would make an announcement and sign off. In addition, all broadcasters and cable operators must transmit a Required Weekly EAS Test (RWT), and once a month, must re-transmit the Required Monthly Test (RMT) within 1 hour of receiving it on their EAS Decoder. These actions are required of all broadcasters and cable operators, regardless to their "PN" or "NN" EAS status.

B. State / Local EAS Participation

Participation in the State and/or Local Area EAS is *voluntary* for all broadcasters and cable operators. However, any stations / cable operators electing to participate in the State and / or Local Area EAS must then follow the procedures found in this Plan. Note: Even though they elect not to carry National EAS Alerts, stations designated "NN" (Non-Participating National) may participate in the State and/or Local Area EAS without any prior FCC approval.

C. Conditions of EAS Participation

Acceptance of/or participation in this Plan shall not be deemed as a relinquishment of program control, and shall not be deemed to prohibit a broadcast licensee from exercising his independent discretion and responsibility in any given situation. Broadcast stations and cable systems originating EAS emergency communications shall be deemed to have conferred rebroadcast authority. The concept of management of each broadcast station and cable system to exercise discretion regarding the broadcast of emergency information and instructions to the general public is provided by the FCC Rules and Regulations.

III. The Shenandoah Valley Emergency Communications Committee

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IV. Organization and Concepts of the EAS

A. EAS Designations

These are the FCC's EAS Station Designations, reflecting the EAS status of every broadcaster and cable operator. A current listing of all stations in the local area is included in the F.C.C. mapbook and is incorporated into this plan by reference. Currently, all part 73 broadcast stations other than the two LP stations in this local area are listed as PN. A roster of the local area broadcasters is posted in Appendix F of this plan.

NP (National Primary)
Sole source of all National EAS Alerts.

SR (State Relay)
Stations that relay State Emergency Network to the PN and NN stations.

LP (Local Primary)
The LP-1 and LP-2 stations are local broadcast stations in your area which serve as origination points for local emergency activations and relay points for all emergency activations.

PN (Participating National)
Most broadcasters and cable operators are designated as "PN". These sources are for delivering all levels of EAS to the general public.

NN (Non-Participating National)
Broadcasters who hold an "NN Authorization" from the FCC to sign off the air during a National Emergency.

B. Other Definitions

The following are other terms used in the organization of the Shenandoah Valley Local Area Plan.

NOAA (NOAA WEATHER RADIO)

NOAA Weather Radio stations encode their alerts using the same coding as used for EAS Alerts. Broadcasters and cable operators can feed their EAS Decoders with the audio from any normal NOAA Weather Radio receiver, and their EAS Decoder will react just as it does with broadcaster EAS codes.

NUCLEAR PLANT / INDUSTRIAL PLANT

Nuclear plants, and industrial plants with a potential for dangerous conditions could purchase and install encoders and links to both LP stations. In this way they could warn area emergency managers directly of any potentially hazardous conditions and speed up the delivery of such messages to the general public.

The design and implementation of such a system must be coordinated with the Local Area Committee.

V. EAS EAS Protocol Code Information

A. EAS Protocol Code and Sequence

An EAS event contains the following elements, sent in the following sequence:

1. ZCZC-ORG-EEE-PSSCCC+TTTT-JJJHHMM-LLLLLLLLL
2. Attention Signal
3. Aural, Visual, or Text Message
4. NNNN

ZCZC = (Start of ASCII Code) - Sent automatically by your encoder.

ORG = (Originator Code) -Preset once by user, then sent automatically by your encoder. See the following section for code you must use.

EEE = (Event Code) -Determined by user, each time an alert is sent. See the following section for the only codes to be used in the Shenandoah Valley Local Area.

PSSCCC = (County -Location Code) -Determined by user, each time an alert is sent. See the following section for the assigned codes of all Shenandoah Valley Local Area.

TTTT = (Duration of Alert) -Determined by user, each time an alert is sent.

JJJHHMM = (Date/Time-of-Day) - Sent automatically by your encoder.

LLLLLLLLL = (8-Character ID, Identifying the Broadcaster, Cable TV, Weather Service Office, Nuclear/Industrial Plant, or Civil Authority operating that encoder.) Preset Once by user, then sent automatically by your encoder. See the following section for the format to be followed by all users in constructing their "L-Code".

Attention Signal - must be sent if aural, visual, or text message is sent.

NNNN = (End-of-Message Code) - Must be initiated manually at the end of every EAS Alert originated by all sources. A failure of the system will occur if this code is not sent to reset the Decoders of all stations/operators that carried that alert.

Note: none of this is done manually, your encoder will have an interface that will ask you to input certain elements and will then encode to the above specifications. Sequences 1 and 4 above are actually sent 3 times in a data burst.

Shenandoah Valley Emergency Alert System
LOCAL AREA PLAN

Section V., Pg. 2.
Protocol Codes

B. Originator Codes

WXR
to be used by the National Weather Service Offices.

CIV
to be used by Emergency Government, Sheriffs, and all other Civil Authorities.

EAS
to be used by all Broadcasters and Cable TV Operators.

PEP
to be used for National alerts by Federal authorities

C. Event Codes used in the LECC

EAN Emergency Action Notification
EAT Emergency Action Termination
NIC National Information Center
NPT National Periodic Test

RMT Required Monthly Test
RWT Required Weekly Test

BZW Blizzard Warning
EQW Earthquake Warning
FLW Flood Warning
FFW Flash Flood Warning
HUW Hurricane Warning
TOR Tornado Warning
TOA Tornado Watch

ADR Administrative Message
CAE Child Abduction Emergency
CDW Civil Danger Warning
CEM Civil Emergency Message
EVI Evacuation Immediate
FRW Fire Warning
HMW Hazardous Materials Warning
LEW Law Enforcement Warning
TOE 911 Telephone Outage Emergency
NPW Nuclear Power Plant Warning
DMO Practice/Demo Warning
RHW Radiological Hazard Warning
SPS Shelter in Place Warning

Shenandoah Valley Emergency Alert System
LOCAL AREA PLAN

Section V., Pg. 3.
Protocol Codes

The following events (and others) may be broadcast by NOAA Weather Radio but are not typically relayed by the LP stations:

FFA	Flash Flood Watch
FFS	Flash Flood Statement
FLA	Flood Watch
FLS	Flood Statement
HWW	High Wind Warning
HWA	High Wind Watch
HUA	Hurricane Watch
HLS	Hurricane Statement
SMW	Special Marine Warning
SVR	Severe Thunderstorm Warning
SVA	Severe Thunderstorm Watch
SWS	Severe Weather Statement
SPS	Special Weather Statement
TSW	Tropical Storm Warning
TSA	Tropical Storm Watch
WSW	Winter Storm Warning
WSW	Winter Storm Watch

D. Location Codes ("PSSCCC")

The first digit ("P") is used in some locales to indicate one-ninth of the location code it precedes. This system is not used in the Shenandoah Valley so the first digit ("P") will always be 0.

The remaining 5 digits ("SSCCC") indicate the jurisdiction, as listed below:

Jurisdiction SSSCC Digits
Augusta County 51015
Page County 51139
Rockingham County 51165
Shenandoah County 51171
Harrisonburg (City), VA 51660
Staunton (City), VA 51790
Waynesboro (City), VA 51820

Note: Broadcasters should use the location code for their FCC "city of license", not the location of their transmitter or studio, when selecting a location code for RMT/RWT purposes.

Incorporated towns and unincorporated locales within a county use the county location code appropriate for their location.

E. "L-Code" Station Identifiers

This 8-character code is affixed to every EAS message originated or retransmitted by every EAS Encoder. The code identifies the particular broadcaster, cable operator, Weather Service Office, nuclear/industrial plant, or civil authority operating that encoder. "L-Code" Ids must adhere to the following formats. No deviation from these formats is allowed, since using certain other characters would cause an error in the system.

Broadcasters:

Single Station- "WXXX(FM)

Two Stations- "WXXXWYYY

Three or more Stations- The call letters of one of the stations is sufficient. Alternatively, a corporate name may be used. Any alias should be registered with the SV LECC and will be noted in Appendix D of this plan.

Note that endecs can ONLY be shared among a common licensee. Multiple licensees (corporate names) in the same studio facilities should have separate endecs.

Cable TV:

Use alias on file or your FCC Cable ID Number. Any alias should be registered with the LECC and will be noted in Appendix D of this plan.

Weather Service Offices:

The Sterling VA office will use KLWX/NWS.

Civil Authorities:

Currently all requests for activation must be made by the local E.O.C. to the LP stations. However, if encoding equipment is installed at any E.O.C., one of these 7 identifiers will be used:

Identifier Jurisdiction
EOC51165 Rockingham Co.
EOC51660 Harrisonburg
EOC51015 Augusta Co.
EOC51790 Staunton
EOC51820 Waynesboro
EOC51139 Page Co.
EOC51171 Shenandoah Co.

If any Nuclear Plant or Industrial Plant should obtain their own origination equipment in coordination with this plan, appropriate identifiers may be added to the above list by the LECC.

VI. EAS Tests

The following requirements regarding both RWT's and RMT's apply to all cable systems and broadcasters, "PN", as well as "NN" stations. Even stations that have elected not to participate in local EAS alerts, must still rebroadcast their local RMT every month. There are two exceptions to these rules. First, Class "D" FM and LPTV stations need not have an EAS Encoder. They must have an EAS Decoder. Thus, these stations are exempt from transmitting an RWT.

However, they must retransmit the monthly RMT tests as outlined below, minus the EAS Header Codes and Attention Signal. In addition, LPTV stations must present all EAS information visually, just as all other TV stations must do. The second exception is for FM translator and TV translator stations, which are not required to have any EAS equipment.

A. Required Weekly Test (RWT)

1. Transmission:

All broadcasters and cable operators must transmit an RWT once each week at random days and times except for the week of the RMT test. There are no time-of-day restrictions. This is a 10.5 second test, consisting only of the EAS Header and End of Message Codes.

Exception: on the week when an actual emergency event or RMT has been sent, an RWT need not be sent.

2. Reception:

All broadcasters and cable operators receiving a RWT from one of their monitored sources must log receipt of this test. No further action is required.

B. Required Monthly Test (RMT)

1. Transmission:

RMT's are to be initiated by the LP-1 or LP-2 stations. During some months, the test may actually be initiated by an EOC (Emergency Operations Center) that is equipped with an EAS encoder, or by other entities during a coordinated statewide test. During the designated week for this test, all other broadcasters and cable operators are to wait for this test and then react as described in "Reception / Re-transmission of RMTs," below. These tests will always use the RMT event code.

2. Scheduling of RMT's / Week and Time of Day:

- These guidelines are advisory only. Exceptions may be made by the local area chairman.
- RMT's will normally occur on the third Tuesday of the month. The RMT schedule may published in advance.
- Tests in odd numbered months shall occur between 8:30 a.m. and local sunset.
- Tests in even numbered months shall occur between local sunset and 8:30 a.m (as per FCC rules).

3. Reception / Re-transmission:

All broadcasters and cable operators receiving an RMT test must re-transmit this test within 60 minutes of receiving the test. [For Daytime-only stations receiving a night time RMT, this test must be re-transmitted within 60 minutes of the Daytime-only stations' sign on.] Transmission of this RMT takes the place of the Required Weekly Test (RWT). Times should be logged for both the receipt and re-transmission of the RMT test.

C. Time Duration and Jurisdiction Codes to be used

Required Weekly Tests:

Time Duration used in the EAS Header Code for RWTs shall be "15 Minutes".

For the RWT originated each week by each station or cable operator, the jurisdiction code used shall be the jurisdiction of the broadcasters' City of License, or cable operators' Community of License. Other jurisdictions in the stations'/systems' service area may be added at management discretion.

Non-LP stations should ensure that their endecs will respond to the location code(s) used by the LP stations for their RWTs.

Required Monthly Tests:

Time Duration used in the EAS Header Code for RMTs shall be "90 Minutes". This allows the receiving stations a full 60 minutes for retransmission even if the clocks of the transmitting and receiving stations are not fully synchronized.

For the RMT originated by an LP station, all 7 jurisdictions in the Shenandoah Valley Local Area shall be listed.

VII. Event Scripts and Formats

A. Test Scripts and Formats

The following test scripts and formats shall be used by all broadcasters, cable operators and emergency agencies when originating EAS tests.

1. RWT

No script is used for the RWT. Entire test takes about 10.5 seconds.

- Stop regular programming.
- Optional Announcement to audience identifying EAS tones as part of EAS test - Station / Operator discretion.
- One second pause.
- Send EAS Header Codes (Use RWT Event Code for this test).
- One second pause.
- Send EAS End of Message Code
- One second pause.
- Resume normal programming.

2. RMT

LP stations originating this test should use the following format. All other broadcasters and cable operators will receive the test in this format, and must re-transmit it within 60 minutes in the same format.

- Stop regular programming.
- Intro: "This is a test of the Shenandoah Valley Emergency Alert System."
- One second pause.
- Send EAS Header Code (Use RMT Event Code for this test).
- One second pause.
- Send EAS Attention Signal (8 to 25 seconds)
- Read Test script: "This is a test of the Shenandoah Valley Emergency Alert system. In the event of an Emergency, this system would bring you important information."
- One second pause.
- Send EAS End of Message Code.
- One Second Pause.
- One second pause.
- Resume normal programming.

Timing Note:

The script above can be read in 8-9 seconds. All other elements of the RMT (the Header Codes and an 8 second Attention Signal) take about 25 seconds. The goal of writing this short script was to fit the entire test into 40 seconds. This will allow television stations to air the RMT followed by a 20 second promotional announcement in a 60 second availability. The promotional announcement should allow the EAS crawl to complete before normal programming resumes.

B. Event Activation Script and Format

The following test script and format shall be used by all LP stations when originating EAS event activations.

- Stop Regular Programming.
- Optional Intro: We interrupt our regular programming to activate the Shenandoah Valley Emergency Alert System. Important information will follow."
- One second pause.
- Send EAS Header Code (Use appropriate Event Code from list provided in this plan).
- One second pause.
- Send EAS Attention Signal (8 to 25 seconds).
- Activation Announcement: "We interrupt our regular programming to activate the Shenandoah Valley Emergency Alert System. The (Emergency Agency), has issued a (type of alert) for (list locales) effective until (list time). Broadcast Emergency Message (additional info)." Do not exceed 1-½ minutes!
- Termination Announcement: "This is the Shenandoah Valley Emergency Alert System.
- One second pause.
- Send EAS End of Message Code.
- One second pause. Resume normal programming

The following test script and format shall be used by all agencies with encoders when originating EAS event activations.

- Send EAS Header Code (Use appropriate Event Code from list provided in this plan).
- One second pause.
- Send EAS Attention Signal (8 to 25 seconds).
- Activation Announcement: "We interrupt our regular programming to activate the Shenandoah Valley Emergency Alert System. The (Emergency Agency), has issued a (type of alert) for (list locales) effective until (list time). Broadcast Emergency Message (additional info)." Do not exceed 1-½ minutes!
- Termination Announcement: "This is the Shenandoah Valley Emergency Alert System.
- One second pause.
- Send EAS End of Message Code.

VIII. Guidance for All Users in Programming their EAS Decoders

This section is provided to aid users of EAS, primarily broadcasters and cable operators, in programming their event codes, Jurisdiction Codes, and Modes of Operation into their EAS Decoder. This information can also be of value to Emergency Services and Nuclear/Industrial Plant personnel who are making use of the Decoder section in their EAS gear.

Each EAS Alert that you want to program your EAS gear to respond to will require that you tell it these three elements: which Event Code you want it to respond to, which Jurisdiction that event should apply to, and what Mode of Operation you want it to respond in.

Some units, notably the popular SAGE ENDEC, require that you also pre-specify the ORIGINATOR CODES that it will respond to for each event code. For these units, you must program them (beyond the default programming) to respond to an RMT originated by WXR or CIV as well as EAS. Failure to do so will cause your unit to not respond to the annual Tornado Drill which is sent as an RMT, originated by a WXR.

A. Modes of Operation

All EAS Decoders must be capable of at least Manual and Automatic Operation. Some manufacturers also offer a Semi-Automatic Mode. Manual mode requires an operator on duty at all times it is used.

Manual Operation:

Your EAS gear will only notify you of any incoming EAS Alert that you have programmed it to respond to. Your operator must push a button to cause the Alert to be transmitted on your station/cable system.

Automatic Operation:

This type of operation would normally be used with a Program Interrupt connection to the EAS Unit. Your on-air audio and/or video is "looped through" the EAS Unit so that the unit can interrupt the audio/video when necessary. In automatic operation, when the EAS Decoder receives an EAS alert that you have programmed it to respond to, it immediately interrupts your programming to transmit the alert.

Semi-Automatic Operation:

Under this mode of operation, when the EAS Decoder receives an EAS Alert that you have programmed it to respond to, it will begin a preset countdown to automatic interrupt. The idea is for your operator to run the EAS Alert on the air manually at his earliest convenience. If the Alert is not run by the time the countdown expires, the EAS gear will take over and do it for your operator. The same could apply to a broadcast automation system, where the automation system should insert the received Alert in the next commercial break. If it fails to do that, the EAS gear will interrupt to transmit the Alert at the end of the time out.

B. Suggested Event Code Programming for your Decoder

A list of event codes utilized in the LECC is listed in this plan in Section V., Part C.

LP stations will forward short-fuse type warnings. Please note that the LP stations WILL NOT usually be forwarding any weather "watches" or "advisories", nor will they broadcast WSW (Winter Storm Warnings), but PN stations may obtain and rebroadcast those alerts direct from NOAA Weather Radio if they so desire.

Also, broadcasters may wish to grant priority to TOR and EVI alerts, and not allow them to be delayed any longer than necessary.

XI. Guidance for Originators of EAS Alerts

EAS Alert Warnings should only be issued for life-threatening emergencies. Issuing EAS Alerts for less-serious conditions could compromise the confidence of your local broadcasters and cable operators, all of whom are carrying your alerts on a voluntary basis. Many broadcasters cover a very large portion of the region, and should not be expected to broadcast localized non-life-threatening emergencies.

An example of a non-life-threatening emergency would be a severe accident, or brush fire on I-81, requiring the re-routing of traffic off of the interstate. This would not be cause for an EAS activation.

However, if that accident involved HAZ-MAT materials that require evacuation of neighborhoods adjacent to the interstate, that might be cause for an EAS activation.

Questions about the appropriateness of activation should be referred to the LECC Chairman or Vice-Chairman.

A. Guidance for Emergency Services Officials

Specific procedures for local EAS activations are contained in Appendix A of this plan.

The Emergency Alert System (EAS) is designed so that agencies with an emergency message need transmit that message only once, and it will be received by all area broadcasters and cable operators simultaneously.

In the very near future all EOC's will have an EMnet uplink, connected by satellite to VDEM in Richmond. With an encoder, this will allow them to input EAS alerts directly into the system. Under this local area plan, EOC's are authorized to make such activations but they are reminded to take caution.

Currently, all requests for activation by any agency should be directed through the appropriate county or city E.O.C., operating under VDEM guidelines. NO EXCEPTIONS SHALL BE MADE UNDER THE CURRENT PLAN. This procedure is essential to insure that authentication procedures are followed.

Although it could be possible for any agency to contact a non-LP broadcast station in the event of an emergency, and that station could simulate an EAS activation, such activations are considered to be outside this plan and therefore may be classified as a "false or deceptive EAS transmission" as per 47 CFR 11.45.

Explanation: Although 47 CFR 11.55(a) states that "the EAS may be activated at the State or Local area levels by broadcast stations at their discretion for day-to-day emergency situations", 47 CFR 11.55(b) specifically states that "EAS operations must be conducted as specified in State and Local Area EAS Plans."

THIS PLAN STATES THAT ALL ACTIVATION REQUESTS BY CIVIL AUTHORITIES OR INDUSTRY FOR THIS LOCAL AREA BE DIRECTED TO BOTH LP STATIONS VIA THE LOCAL E.O.C. AND NOT TO ANY OTHER BROADCAST ENTITY.

Explanation:

- *Other stations are not monitored, so the warning will not be distributed system wide.*
- *Other stations will not have authentication procedures emplaced.*
- *Other stations have not undergone training and may not be prepared to properly activate.*

A WORD OF CAUTION: Emergency Services agencies have acquired a valuable tool in gaining direct access to all area broadcasters and cable operators via the EAS. However, if not used prudently, they put themselves in danger of losing this tool. Broadcasters and cable operators are expecting the EAS to be used only in life-threatening emergencies.

Keep in mind two things. First, many broadcasters and cable operators have their EAS Decoders set on Automatic Mode. There is no one to screen your message and decide if it should be aired. They are depending on you to only send an EAS Alert for a very serious emergency. The first time you trigger the system for a frivolous event, you will lose the confidence of your area broadcasters and cable system operators. The second thing to remember is that **broadcasters and cable operators participate in the local level EAS on a voluntary basis**. No one can force them to carry your EAS alerts. Maintain a good relationship with your local broadcasters and cable operators, and they will come through for you in a crisis.

B. Guidance for Nuclear Plant and Industrial Plant Personnel

Nuclear Plants and certain Industrial Plants are the only non-government entities that have been given the authority to issue an EAS Alert. The caution given to Emergency Services agencies in the section above should be reviewed by Nuclear and Industrial Plant personnel as well. EAS Alert Warnings should only be issued for life-threatening emergencies. Issuing EAS Alerts for less-serious conditions could compromise the confidence of your local broadcasters and cable operators, all of whom are carrying your alerts on a voluntary basis.

Presently no Industrial Plants in the LECC have encoding devices.

C. Guidance for Law Enforcement - AMBER Alerts

Many locales have emplaced AMBER alert systems, of which the EAS is a component. In order to assure consistency, and to avoid duplicative alerts, **ALL AMBER EAS activation requests MUST be processed through the Virginia State Police (VSP) as per the Virginia State EAS Plan and the State Amber Alert Plan.**

After the initial EAS activation has been distributed from VSP to the LP stations, it will be rebroadcast by the LP stations to other stations in this area. Stations may rebroadcast the initial EAS activation once and then, if they elect, broadcast the AMBER information at least every 15 minutes for the first two hours, and every 30 minutes for the next three hours. As per the State AMBER alert plan, "The decision to rebroadcast the "AMBER Alert" information will be left up to each individual broadcasting station and is completely voluntary". Stations operating unattended may not be able to broadcast the AMBER information beyond the initial EAS alert.

The initial EAS activation will serve to alert stations that an AMBER alert has been issued so they may monitor their Fax machines or the internet for supplemental information from the VSP, if applicable to their region. Law enforcement is encouraged to utilize Fax broadcasts to the stations in the LECC so that the stations have the supplemental information for their additional broadcasts. A current Fax broadcast list may be obtained from Appendix F of this plan. The Fax broadcast should include a script which conforms to the State Amber Alert Plan. Stations should be alert for incoming Faxes in the hours following a CAE activation which may contain additional information or a cancellation of the alert.

Appendix A: Local Activation

These procedures are confidential.

Appendix B: Local Event Code Definitions

Administrative Message (ADR) A non-emergency message that provides updated information about an event in progress, an event that has expired or concluded early, pre-event preparation or mitigation activities, post-event recovery operations, or other administrative matters pertaining to the Emergency Alert System.

Child Abduction Emergency (CAE) An emergency message, based on established criteria in the state Amber Alert plan, about a missing child believed to be abducted. **Must be originated by VSP.**

Civil Danger Warning (CDW) A warning of an event that presents a danger to a significant civilian population. The CDW, which usually warns of a specific hazard and gives specific protective action, has a higher priority than the Local Area Emergency (LAE). Examples include contaminated water supply and imminent or in-progress military or terrorist attack. Public protective actions could include evacuation, shelter in place, or other actions (such as boiling contaminated water or seeking medical treatment).

Civil Emergency Message (CEM) An emergency message regarding an in-progress or imminent significant threat(s) to public safety and/or property. The CEM is a higher priority message than the Local Area Emergency (LAE), but the hazard is less specific than the Civil Danger Warning (CDW). For example, the CEM could be used to describe a change in the Homeland Security Alert System level in response to a terrorist threat.

Earthquake Warning (EQW) A warning of current or imminent earthquake activity. Authorized officials may recommend or order protective actions according to state law or local ordinance.

Evacuation Immediate (EVI) A warning where immediate evacuation is recommended or ordered according to state law or local ordinance. As an example, authorized officials may recommend the evacuation of affected areas due to an approaching tropical cyclone. In the event a flammable or explosive gas is released, authorized officials may recommend evacuation of designated areas where casualties or property damage from a vapor cloud explosion or fire may occur.

Fire Warning (FRW) A warning of a spreading wildfire or structural fire that threatens a populated area. Evacuation of areas in the fire's path may be recommended by authorized officials according to state law or local ordinance.

Hazardous Materials Warning (HMW) A warning of a release of non-radioactive hazardous material (such as a flammable gas, toxic chemical, or biological agent) that may recommend evacuation (for an explosion, fire, or oil spill hazard) or shelter in place (for a toxic fume hazard).

Shenandoah Valley Emergency Alert System
LOCAL AREA PLAN

Appendix B., Pg. 2.
Local Event Code Definitions

Law Enforcement Warning (LEW) A warning of a bomb explosion, riot, or other criminal event (e.g. a jailbreak). An authorized law enforcement agency may blockade roads, waterways, or facilities, evacuate or deny access to affected areas, and arrest violators or suspicious persons.

911 Telephone Outage Emergency (TOE) An emergency message that defines a local or state 911 telephone network outage by geographic area or telephone exchange. Authorized officials may provide alternate phone numbers with which to reach 911 or dispatch personnel.

Nuclear Power Plant Warning (NUW) A warning of an event at a nuclear power plant, such as a Site Area Emergency or General Emergency as classified by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). A Site Area Emergency is confined to the plant site; no off-site impact is expected. Typically, a General Emergency is confined to an area less than a 10-mile radius around the plant. Authorized officials may recommend evacuation or medical treatment of exposed persons in nearby areas.

Radiological Hazard Warning (RHW) A warning of the loss, discovery, or release of a radiological material. Examples include: the theft of a radioactive isotope used for medical, seismic, or other purposes; the discovery of radioactive materials; a transportation (aircraft, truck or rail, etc.) accident which may involve nuclear weapons, nuclear fuel, or radioactive wastes. Authorized officials may recommend protective actions to be taken if a radioactive hazard is discovered.

Shelter in Place Warning (SPW) A warning of an event where the public is recommended to shelter in place (go inside, close doors and windows, turn off air conditioning or heating systems, and turn on the radio or TV for more information). An example is the release of hazardous materials where toxic fumes or radioactivity may affect designated areas.

Appendix C: Local Government Emergency Coordinators

This information is confidential.

Appendix D: Monitoring Assignments

General Monitoring Assignments

This plan specifies only the required two broadcast stations that each broadcaster or cable operator is to monitor. Most EAS decoders have more than two inputs. It is encouraged that the broadcaster monitor additional sources if required to serve the needs of their audience.

Stations in the LECC must monitor WQPO-FM (LP-1) at 100.7 MHz and WMRA-FM (LP-2) at 90.7 MHz. Any exceptions to this plan must be approved in writing by the LECC chairman, with a copy filed with the SECC.

Stations may wish to add a NOAA weather radio receiver as one of the inputs to their EAS decoder. The NOAA Weather Radio signal is very poor in this region. However, the LP stations will attempt to rebroadcast all critical NOAA weather alerts.

Stations in the LECC who also serve audiences in other local areas may monitor other stations at their option, but they must still monitor the two LP assignments above.

LP Station Monitoring Assignments

LP-1 station WQPO shall monitor WMRA (LP-2) and WWWV (SR) and NOAA Weather Radio.

LP-2 station WMRA shall monitor WQPO (LP-1), VA EOC (emNET) and NOAA Weather Radio.

Shenandoah Valley Emergency Alert System
LOCAL AREA PLAN

Appendix E: Broadcaster Roster

Appendix F: Alias Identifiers on file

WQPOWSVA is an 8 digit abbreviation for Verstandig stations that share a common encoder in their Harrisonburg studios.

WMRA/Y/L is an 8 digit abbreviation for James Madison University stations that share a common encoder in their Harrisonburg studios. Note that during many hours of the day WMRA is simulcast on WMLU Farmville, Virginia, and that any EAS alerts sent by WMRA during those times may also be rebroadcast. However, WMLU will continue to fully participate in the Farmville local area with its own endec.

WKCY/ACL is an 8 digit abbreviation for Clear Channel stations that share a common encoder in their Harrisonburg studios.

ADELPHIA is an 8 digit abbreviation for ALL ADELPHIA CABLE SYSTEMS in the LECC except the Harrisonburg system, which is identified as 003729. The individual system shall be identified by its FIPS code, which will be transmitted with all weekly and monthly tests. Of course, the system is identified by its hard-wire connection, as well.

SHENCABL is an 8 digit abbreviation for SHENANDOAH CABLE (Edinburg / Shenandoah County).

Shenandoah Valley Emergency Alert System
LOCAL AREA PLAN

Appendix H: Agreements with LP Stations

WQPO
VerStandig Broadcasting
P. O. Box 752
Harrisonburg, Virginia 222801
(540) 434-0331

March 19, 2009

This letter is to confirm that WQPO is willing to serve as the LP-1/SR station for the Shenandoah Valley Emergency Alert System. As such WQPO will monitor the following assignments, in accordance with the Shenandoah Valley Local Area Plan:

WMRA - LP-1
WWWV State Relay
Noaa Weather Radio

Furthermore, WQPO will normally transmit, originate or relay the following EAS events:

EAN	Emergency Action Notification
EAT	Emergency Action Termination
NIC	National Information Center
NPT	National Periodic Test
RMT	Required Monthly Test
RWT	Required Weekly Test
BZW	Blizzard Warning
EQW	Earthquake Warning
FLW	Flood Warning
FFW	Flash Flood Warning
HUW	Hurricane Warning
TOR	Tornado Warning
TOA	Tornado Watch
CAE	Child Abduction Emergency
CDW	Civil Danger Warning
CEM	Civil Emergency Message
EVI	Evacuation Immediate
FRW	Fire Warning
HMW	Hazardous Materials Warning
LEW	Law Enforcement Warning
TOE	911 Telephone Outage Emergency
NPW	Nuclear Power Plant Warning
DMO	Practice/Demo Warning
RHW	Radiological Hazard Warning
SPS	Shelter in Place Warning

Our acceptance of/or participation in this Plan shall not be deemed as a relinquishment of program control, and shall not be deemed to prohibit our stations from exercising our independent discretion and responsibility in any given situation. We hereby grant rebroadcast authority to any other broadcast station for EAS purposes only.

Sincerely,

Frank Wilt
Vice-Chairman Shenandoah Valley Local Area E.A.S.

Shenandoah Valley Emergency Alert System
LOCAL AREA PLAN

Appendix H., Pg. 2.
Agreements with LP stations

MRA
983 Reservoir Street
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801

March 19, 2009

This letter is to confirm that WMRA is willing to serve as the LP-2 station, for the Shenandoah Valley Emergency Alert System. As such WMRA will monitor the following assignments, in accordance with the Shenandoah Valley Local Area Plan:

WQPO - LP-1
emNET - VDEM State EOC
Noaa Weather Radio

Furthermore, WMRA will normally transmit, originate or relay the following EAS events:

EAN	Emergency Action Notification
EAT	Emergency Action Termination
NIC	National Information Center
NPT	National Periodic Test
RMT	Required Monthly Test
RWT	Required Weekly Test
BZW	Blizzard Warning
EQW	Earthquake Warning
FLW	Flood Warning
FFW	Flash Flood Warning
HUW	Hurricane Warning
TOR	Tornado Warning
TOA	Tornado Watch
CAE	Child Abduction Emergency
CDW	Civil Danger Warning
CEM	Civil Emergency Message
EVI	Evacuation Immediate
FRW	Fire Warning
HMW	Hazardous Materials Warning
LEW	Law Enforcement Warning
TOE	911 Telephone Outage Emergency
NPW	Nuclear Power Plant Warning
DMO	Practice/Demo Warning
RHW	Radiological Hazard Warning
SPS	Shelter in Place Warning

Our acceptance of/or participation in this Plan shall not be deemed as a relinquishment of program control, and shall not be deemed to prohibit our stations from exercising our independent discretion and responsibility in any given situation. We hereby grant rebroadcast authority to any other broadcast station for EAS purposes only.

Sincerely,

William Fawcett
Chairman Shenandoah Valley Local Area E.A.S.

Appendix Z: Revisions

March 19, 2009 Removed ADR from the LP station relay list as NWS has started used it for live testing. During an actual emergency stations would have the option to manually relay ADR messages, but we cannot autoforward because of the FCC prohibition of live code testing without advance coordination.