

Nebraska State Emergency Communications Committee
September 20, 2017 Meeting Minutes
 1:00 PM CDT Meeting

Common Acronyms	
CAP	Common Alerting Protocol
COG	Collaborative Operating Group
EAN	Emergency Action Notification
EAS	Emergency Alert System
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIPS	Federal Information Processing Standard
IPAWS	Integrated Public Alert & Warning System
LECC	Local Emergency Communications Committee
NEMA	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
NOAA	National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
NWS	National Weather Service
SECC	State Emergency Communications Committee
SP/SR	State Primary / State Relay Network
WEA	Wireless Emergency Alerts

Item 1 Call to Order: 1:04 PM CDT

Member Name	Organization	Representing	Present
Al Krause	Nebraska Educational Telecommunications	State Primary	X
Philip Brown	Great Plains Communications	Cable	X
Troy Harris	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency	NEMA	X
Paul Johnson	Douglas County Emergency Management	Emergency Management	X
Jeromy McCoy	Nebraska State Patrol	Law Enforcement	X
Nick Paden	Cox Communications	Cable	
Ray Richards	Scottsbluff Co. E 911 Communications	NPSCC	
Jim Skinner	KPTM/KXVO	Broadcast Television	X
Brian Smith	NOAA/ National Weather Service	Weather Services	X
Jim Timm	Nebraska Broadcast Association	Radio/Television	X
Rod Zeigler, Chair	Rural Radio Network / KRVN	Broadcast Radio	X

Other Attendees: Quinn Lewandowski, UNPPC, Secretary

Item 2 Approval of June Minutes

Jimm Timm motion to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2017 meeting. Phil Brown seconded the motion; the motion passed by unanimously.

Item 3 Report on Multi-lingual Survey

Quinn Lewandowski of the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center presented the preliminary results of the EAS Multi-lingual Survey. It is expected that we will see a sharp increase of submission towards the end of October and early November. The EAS Multi-lingual Survey will close on November 6, 2017. As of the last analysis of the survey, one-hundred seventy organizations were represented by 138 survey responses. The preliminary results are listed below.

Primary Language Broadcast (n=138):

English – 98.55%

Spanish – 1.45%

Other – 0.00%

Broadcast, at any time, programming in languages other than primary language (n=138):

Yes – 7.97%

No – 92.03%

If you broadcast other languages other than your primary language, what are they? (n=12):

Spanish – 91.66%

Vietnamese – 8.33%

English – 0.00%

Currently provide EAS reports in multiple languages (n=135):

Yes – 1.48%

No – 98.52%

If you are an English only station, do you plan to make EAS alerts in any languages other than English? (n=127):

Yes – 6.3%

No – 93.7%

Quinn will finalize the draft after the completion of the survey and present it at the December meeting, as well as place a link to the survey on SECC website.

Item 4 AMBER Alert Update

A two day planning workshop was held to further improve AMBER alerts. The proposed improvements take about an hour off the current and ideal alerting time. Guardians no longer have to have a signed release, and a verbal release over the phone is now acceptable. Other proposed improvements include the guardians being able to submit an online form.

Item 5 Silver Alert Update

Any legislation related to Silver Alerts has been put on hold for the time being.

Item 6 Blue Alert Update

No update was available to report. Awaiting for FCC decision

Item 7 National Test Discussion

Next Wednesday, September 27th at 1:20 PM the National Periodic Test will occur. With the hurricanes, there is a rain date of Oct. 4th

Item 8 New EAS Plan Report

The SECC resubmitted the plan that was submitted two years ago. The plan was reviewed and the FCC provided feedback in possible changes to the plan.

The SECC has since submitted two other plans addressing the feedback they received from their original plan and eliminated redundancies from the original 2015 plan. No word yet on if either of plans have been accepted by the FCC yet.

There was discussion about what will be action steps by the SECC after the FCC officially accepts one of Nebraska's EAS Plans. Preliminary discussions of the amount of time would be ideal for implementing an accepted EAS plan. It was recommended that the SECC use a 60 day time frame to allow stations to become compliant to an accepted EAS plan.

Item 9 Approval of 2018 RMT Schedule

Troy Harris motioned to approve the 2018 RMT Schedule. Jim Skinner seconded the motion; the motion passed by unanimously with no abstentions or dissensions.

The 2018 Nebraska EAS RMT Schedule has been approved. All tests are schedule for the 3rd Tuesday of each month. This approved schedule can be found on the Nebraska EAS website (www.ne-eas.org)

All Nebraska broadcasters and cable systems are encouraged to have a representative on the Nebraska EAS email list where you will receive updates on EAS tests and alerts. Go to www.NE-EAS.org to register.

Item 10 Discussion of Old Business

No discussion of any other old business was held.

Item 11 Discussion of New Business

The federal government passed the SANDy Act into law. This law gives recognition to broadcast and cell phone engineers as first responders. This will allow broadcast and cell phone engineers easier access into Federal disaster areas.

A provision was accepted allowing an extension to cell companies on certain deadlines related to Wireless Emergency Alerts. This extension was granted as some of the small cellphone companies could not comply with the deadlines.

A new alert criteria was established for a "Tornado Emergency" alert. A tornado emergency is an enhanced version of a tornado warning, which is used by the National Weather Service (NWS) in the United States during significant tornado occurrences in

highly populated areas. Although it is not a new warning type from the NWS, issued instead within a severe weather statement (or in rare cases, in the initial tornado warning), a tornado emergency generally means that significant, widespread damage is expected to occur and a high likelihood of numerous fatalities is expected with a large, strong to violent tornado.

These enhanced warnings are intended to convey the urgency of the weather situation to the general public, who are advised to take safety precautions immediately if they are in or near the projected path of a large tornado or its accompanying thunderstorm; tornado emergencies are usually identified following the preceding storm summary in the tornado warning product, which itself will denote visual or radar confirmation of "a large and extremely dangerous [or destructive] tornado" that is ongoing; precautionary action statements in the product also recommend that people in the storm's path find shelter in an underground shelter or safe room to protect themselves from the storm, if available.

On Nov. 14th, NOAA will host an integrated warning team (IWT) workshop at the UNO student union. Media, EM community, and broadcasters are invited to attend and discuss how we can improve warnings.

Item 12 Scheduling of Next Meeting

The next meeting was set for December 13th, 2017 at 1:00 PM CDT via conference call. Phone: 1-866-423-8755, Passcode: 277659.

Item 13 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:51 PM CDT.