

Nebraska SECC Meeting
Thursday, December 12, 2013
1:00 PM CST
Department of Roads, Omaha, Nebraska

Minutes

Common Acronyms	
CAP	Common Alerting Protocol
EAN	Emergency Alert 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
NEMA	Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
NOAA	National Oceanic & Atmospheric Association
NWS	National Weather Service
RMT	Required Monthly Test
RWT	Required Weekly Test
SECC	State Emergency Communications Committee
WEA	Wireless Emergency Alert

1. Introduction and quorum

Attendees:

Member Name	Organization	Representing
Jim Skinner, Chair	KPTM/KXVO	Broadcast Television
Bob Huber	NET	State Relay
Rod Ziegler	KRUN, NRRRA, PEPAC	Radio
Bob Eastwood	NEMA	State Emergency Mgmt
Brian Smith	National Weather Services	National Weather Service
Aaron Alward	Sarpy County Emergency Management	Emergency Management
Lt. Carla Schreiber	Nebraska State Patrol	State Patrol
Marty Riemenschneider	Nebraska Broadcast Association	Broadcast Association
LeeAnn Quist	Great Plains Cable	Cable Television

Other Attendees: Alisia LaMay, NEMA; Sue Krogman, NEMA; Janell Walther, Public Policy Center; Jim McKee, Nebraska Dept. of Roads; Al Krause, NET Television; Larry Lavelle, Sarpy County Communications; Michael Moritz, National Weather Service; Eric Strelow, Sprint; Steve Eddy, National Weather Service; Brad, Enterprise Emergency Messaging, Sprint.

2. Review of August minutes

Bob Huber requested that the minutes be updated to reflect the new meeting date. Rod Ziegler made a motion to approve the minutes with the requested update. Bob Huber seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

3. New Member Approval

Bob Huber requested a change to the NET representative in order to fulfill his new roll as the Chief Information Technology Officer at NET. Bob Huber made a motion to appoint Al Krause as the primary representative for the State Relay Network, with Bob Huber serving as the secondary representative. LeeAnn Quist seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

Lt. Carla Schreiber made a motion to appoint Alisia LaMay as the primary representative for NEMA in lieu of Bob Eastwood's resignation. Marty Riemenschneider seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

4. Amber Meeting Report

An Amber Alert was made at 10:08 AM and the individual was arrested at 11:08 PM. The news media shared the information, though no EAS Amber alert was. The EAS tones do get to more areas and stations that the news media does not get to. This shows the delay in issuing amber alerts so perhaps that could be improved with IPAWS in the future. Nebraska does not allow locally made Amber Alerts – there are only three agencies who can issue Amber Alerts. Nebraska Amber Alerts have been successful each of the twelve times they were used. The Attorney Generals' opinion has not changed on IPAWS and Amber Alerts. Amber alerts go through NWS, but they should not duplicate when the alerts are identical. WEA's go through Washington and then go out through WEA. With Amber, there is not the overlap like there is with the RMT. For information about the Amber Alerts, more information can be found in the state Amber Plan.

Nebraska IPAWS Plan: The coding for child abduction emergency (CAE), CAE can stay checked in the IPAWS alerts, but the local plans should note that they will only be used by the State Patrol and not on the local level. This eliminates a need for an application through FEMA.

5. Douglas County EAS Plan

All the officials have signed off on the Douglas County EAS plan, and the LECC will send it off to NEMA for review.

6. Emergency Alerting & Dept. of Roads Presentation – Jim McGee

The border between Nebraska and Iowa on I-80 received 217,000 cars per day. By having local communication between the Department of Roads and the Nebraska State Patrol, improves the consistency of information particularly with dispatch co-location. All-Hazards preparedness is very important to the Department of Roads. For example, when the flood of 2011 shut down I-29 and I-680, transportation management played a key role in emergency operations. Weather also plays a key role in transportation and emergency operations as there are 1.5M weather-related auto-crashes annually in the US. The Department of Roads is responsible for reporting lane blockages, road weather,

constructions, and travel time to the public within 15 minutes. For more information, contact Jim McGee at jim.mcgee.ne@gmail.com.

7. Establish RMT Schedule for 2014

Stations seem to be happy with the existing schedule – 10 AM / 11 PM on 3rd Tuesday. Weekly tests can be random, but monthly test cannot. Marty Reimenschneider made a motion to approve the RMT schedule as presented. Al Krause seconded the motion; the motion passed by consensus.

The September RMT was made through IPAWS; 83% of stations responding in a clean communication. The national test got an 81% clean communication. FEMA was very happy with Nebraska's results. RMTs through IPAWS will continue testing, and then RMTs may be made through IPAWS.

8. Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)

There has been some discussion but having a state test, but the FCC is not planning a state test at this time. Much like other states, Alisia submitted a request and justification to the FCC for a WEA test, using FCC's language. FEMA took this request and the other states' requests to the FCC, but we have not heard back yet. Currently the FCC will not approve any testing for WEA. It is against FCC regulations right now. The JIDC lab is prohibited from using funding for that testing and they are waiting to make that decision on whether to change those rules. FEMA already does a RMT nationwide on the 3rd Thursday, which goes through towers; cell phones have to be selected to get those through the messaging option. The system is being tested, but in a closed circuit manner that a normal phone user may not see.

9. EAS Plan

The EAS plan should not need to duplicate items that are in the Amber Plan or State Emergency Operations Plan, for example. Concurrence from named individuals will need to be shown in the state EAS Plan. An appendix can be kept as a separate document from the EAS plan detailing items such as the members of the SECC and list of LP-1 stations. The EAS plan will not need to include WEA; the FCC states that "WEA complements the existing Emergency Alert System (EAS), which is implemented by the FCC and FEMA at the federal level through broadcasters and other media service providers. WEA and the EAS are part of FEMA's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)."

A small working group will be created to work on the EAS plan and present changes at the next meeting. Lt. Carla Schreiber, Rod Ziegler, Alisia LaMay, and Janell Walther will be a part of this working group. Brian Smith will make a list of recommended alert codes for EAS.

10. Other Business

On Tuesday, there was a PPAC board member call, and Rod Ziegler participated. And a FEMA rep, Manny Cintano was on the call with the PEP program though he is still working with JIDC. NET is a PEP station in Nebraska.

Al Krause will keep up the EAS Yahoo site and listserv. To keep up, we moderate and program the RMTs in on the calendar and program to send the reminders a day or two ahead of time.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be in March 19 at 1:00 in Grand Island at the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center. We will invite some presentation of local plans.

Meeting adjourned at 3:33 pm.