



FEMA

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FEMA ENCOURAGES INDUSTRY, PUBLIC, PRIVATE STAKEHOLDERS TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON PROPOSED PROFILE FOR CAP 1.1

WASHINGTON – The Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) is urging emergency management industries, state and tribal leaders and first responders across the country to review and comment on the open standardization process for the Emergency Alert System (EAS) Profile for the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Version 1.1 OASIS Standard. The EAS profile is a component of the agency’s Integrated Public Alert and Warnings System (IPAWS) program

From today through May 2, 2009, emergency management stakeholders have the opportunity to participate in online brainstorming on the standardization process through the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS) and its Emergency Management Technical Committee. Comments from members and non-OASIS members will be collected online via http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/comments/index.php?wg_abbrev=emergency the organization’s publicly archived comment facility.

“Arriving at standards and protocols that work for everyone is a complex process,” Walter Florence, IPAWS program manager within FEMA’s National Continuity Programs Directorate, said. “We encourage industry and our public and private stakeholders to participate in this important venue to help us meet this challenge.”

CAP 1.1 is a format for exchanging emergency alerts that allows a consistent warning message to be disseminated simultaneously over many different warning systems. IPAWS is the nation's next generation public communications and warning capability. FEMA is working with the public and private sectors to integrate warning systems that allow the President and authorized officials to communicate with the public in times of emergency via television, radio, telephone, email, and other communications technologies.

"FEMA's contribution of the Emergency Alert System profile to OASIS is an exciting milestone in the advancement and adoption of CAP," Laurent Liscia, executive director of OASIS, said. "Our open standards process ensures that all interested parties will be able to review and comment on this specification, confident that their views will receive thoughtful consideration by the Emergency Management Technical Committee. We encourage everyone to become involved in this work--as participants, observers, or commenters--so that going forward CAP will continue to reflect the broadest possible range of input."



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FEMA's federal partners in developing the federal CAP profile include the National Weather Service, Federal Communications Commission, Department of Homeland Security's Science & Technology Directorate's Command, Control and Interoperability Division, and the Emergency Interoperability Consortium.

FEMA submitted its draft "Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) v1.1 Profile Requirements" to the OASIS Emergency Management Technical Committee on Dec. 12, 2008. These requirements are publicly accessible on the OASIS Web site. The Emergency Management Technical Committee formed a CAP Profiles Subcommittee to evaluate the requirements and develop a working draft of the profile. When the subcommittee completed its work, it was submitted to the full committee for a vote to accept as a committee draft. After further review, the Emergency Management Technical Committee voted to advance the committee draft to a 60-day public comment review. OASIS will conduct one or more public reviews of the draft before it can be advanced to a specification and then standard.

FEMA leads and supports the nation in a risk-based, comprehensive emergency management system of preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation, to reduce the loss of life and property and protect the nation from all hazards including natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters.

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