



IPAWS Supported State/Regional Testing (ISSRT)

BACKGROUND

- The Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) infrastructure is designed to provide rapid dissemination of emergency messages to the American people under all conditions.
- Executive Order (E.O) 13407 entrusts the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to evaluate capabilities, close gaps, and implement a standard methodology for regularly testing the emergency alert and warning infrastructure.
- Thus, FEMA began conducting IPAWS Supported State/Regional Tests (ISSRT) in voluntary coordination with State Broadcasters Associations and Emergency Management Agencies.

ISSRT INFORMATION

- The test is a distribution of the National Periodic Test (NPT) code, originated by the FEMA IPAWS Lab, geo-targeted to participating states.
- The NPT is validated through IPAWS-OPEN (Open Platform for Emergency Networks) and distributed to the **Emergency Alert System (EAS) pathway** seen and heard through commercial and public radio, television broadcast stations and cable television systems, the **All Hazards Information Feed**, which is monitored by U.S. entities with signed agreements with FEMA and redistributed through the Internet, specialized applications (APPS), etc., and the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) All-Hazards Weather Radio** even though NOAA's infrastructure does not currently redistribute national test code messages.
- The NPT is not sent over the **Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) pathway**. The WEA pathway is tested and monitored by FEMA IPAWS through field observation of the regularly scheduled WEA Required Monthly Test (RMT).

REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ROLE

- FEMA IPAWS coordinates with Regional Administrators and each State's Emergency Management Agency to propagate planning information and provide Alerting Authorities with resources to assist with testing efforts.

BROADCASTER ROLE

- Participation at the ISSRT level requires broadcast and cable operators to adjust EAS devices to support the NPT event type.
- FEMA IPAWS leads device configuration webinars that provide instructions to assist operators in the manual reconfiguration of their EAS devices to support the NPT.
- On test day, broadcasters receive the NPT from the IPAWS EAS ATOM Feed and automatically relay the NPT and associated audio message to the public and other stations according to State EAS Plans.
- The test is conducted in a no-fault environment. There is no enforcement action from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) based upon distribution success or failure at the ISSRT level.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

- The test temporarily interrupts regular local television, radio and cable broadcasting, but is designed to have minimal impact on the public sounding and appearing very similar to the regularly conducted monthly EAS tests.
- The NPT message will read: "This is a National test of the Emergency Alert System. This is only a test. Broadcast and cable operators in your area have developed this system in voluntary cooperation with FEMA, the FCC, and local authorities to keep you informed in the event of an emergency. If this had been an actual emergency an official message would have followed the alert tone. This concludes this National test of the Emergency Alert System."

BENEFITS

- Fulfills the E.O. 13407 requirement for implementing regular testing of IPAWS.
- Supports efforts to mitigate identified limitations and improve IPAWS message delivery pathways.
- Increases the awareness, understanding, and adoption of IPAWS by all partners.
- Encourages communication and strengthens the relationship between the broadcast and emergency management communities.

For more information visit:

<http://www.fema.gov/emergency/ipaws/>

To contact the IPAWS Project Management Office:
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