



Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) TIP #1 April 4, 2018

Public alert and warning authorities may originate a Required Weekly Test (RWT) message through IPAWS for EAS distribution to ensure their alerting software can send a message through the IPAWS Production or Live system. RWTs are received by EAS participants (radio, TV, cable) as “log only” messages. Once you have issued a RWT simply contact a local radio, TV, or cable system operator and ask them to check their EAS log to see if the RWT is listed. This is also an excellent opportunity to develop a relationship with local media that you depend upon to forward messages you originate.

With an IPAWS test certificate alerting authorities have the ability to run tests with the IPAWS Lab. Testing with the IPAWS Lab can include three phases: first, preparing to test; second, providing a controlled test environment; and third, issuing an operational field assessment.

Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) are not compatible with RWTs. However, many jurisdictions have found success with WEA tests. For example, twenty jurisdictions surrounding Washington, D.C., will coordinate a WEA test this Thursday, April 5th, 2018.

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