BACKGROUND

- Historically, most mass communication mediums used to alert and warn the American people have not incorporated the technologies needed to clearly communicate alerts to those with disabilities.
- Executive Order 13407 requires FEMA to "include in the public alert and warning system the capability to alert and warn all Americans, including those with disabilities."

COMMON ALERTING PROTOCOL (CAP)

- The CAP standard provides an opportunity to improve emergency alert information delivery to Americans with access and functional needs.
- CAP alerts can transport rich multi-media attachments and links in alert messages.
- The availability of additional content will enable industry partners to develop and provide special content and/or devices that can be used by the access and functional needs communities to receive emergency alerts.

COLLABORATING WITH INDUSTRY

- IPAWS Program Management Office (PMO) will continue to establish, develop and maintain collaborative working relationships with various organizations and agencies to effectively identify and integrate the alert and warning requirements of the access and functional needs community.
- These partners include, but are not limited to: Signtel, Deaf-Link, Alertus, NPR, Readspeaker, Roam Secure, VPN Voice Corp, and public organizations such as NOAA.

OFFICE OF DISABILITY INTEGRATION AND COORDINATION (ODIC) ROUNDTABLES

- IPAWS PMO partners with FEMA's ODIC for semi-annual Roundtables for Federal Partners and Industry Experts to discuss alert and warning issues for the access and functional needs community.
- The Roundtables provide periodic updates to our industry partners, elicit information on emerging technologies and systems that can integrate CAP, and facilitate robust discussions between industry and advocacy organizations.
- Representatives from over a dozen leading organizations representing Americans with access and functional needs participate in the Roundtables.

EMERGING ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGIES

- There is a growing interest in developing assistive technology products that support or provide direct alert and warning capabilities to the access and functional needs community.
- IPAWS PMO participates in operational testing and evaluation of products. A sample of recent technologies is available on the IPAWS webpage.
- Technologies and products are routinely incorporated into IPAWS demonstrations at conferences.
- The IPAWS PMO is continually working toward integrating additional technologies and encouraging industry innovation to meet the access and functional needs of all Americans.

For more information, contact the IPAWS project management office at ipaws@dhs.gov , or log on to http://www.fema.gov/emergency/ipaws/index.shtm.

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