

CMAS TESTING IN NYC

On December 15, 2011, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) partnered with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the New York City Office of Emergency Management (OEM), and participating wireless carriers to conduct an initial test of the Commercial Mobile Alert Service (CMAS), also known as Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), across New York City's five boroughs. The New York City test verified end-to-end connectivity of CMAS, and was specifically designed to examine the following points of alert delivery:

1. Origination of a Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) message
2. Authentication of this message through the Federal Alert Aggregator, also known as the IPAWS Open Platform for Emergency Networks (IPAWS-OPEN)
3. Delivery of the message through participating Commercial Mobile Service Provider Gateways
4. Dissemination of the message to mobile devices

The completion of this initial CMAS test helped test participants develop recommendations to inform future tests and CMAS deployment in April 2012. Throughout 2012, FEMA and S&T will partner on CMAS testing across the Nation. Future tests will focus on gaps and recommendations identified in previous tests, localities' ability to successfully incorporate and use CMAS, variations in user experience, and areas for improvement.

To learn more about CMAS testing activities, join the "Alerts and Warnings" group on DHS

S&T's First Responder Communities of Practice website: <https://communities.firstresponder.gov/web/guest>.

CMAS Forum

DHS S&T will host a CMAS Forum in conjunction with the [International Wireless Communications Expo](#), on February 21, at the Las Vegas Convention Center, Room S226, from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM PST.

For more information, including how to register, please contact CMAS_Forum@sra.com.

NEW IPAWS MONITORING REQUIREMENT

In its recent Fifth Report and Order pertaining to the review of the Emergency Alert System (EAS), the Federal Communications Commission has ruled that EAS participants must monitor FEMA's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) for alerts formatted according to Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) specifications. EAS participants include radio and television broadcast stations, cable systems, wireline video systems, wireless cable systems, direct broadcast satellite (DBS) service providers, and digital audio radio service (SDARS) providers.

The new rules go into effect 30 days after publication in the Federal Register; however, the current deadline for participants to deploy operational equipment capable of acquiring

CAP-formatted messages remains unchanged at June 30, 2012.



FEMA

For information about IPAWS, email ipaws@dhs.gov or visit the website at: <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/ipaws>.

The new rule regarding IPAWS monitoring will be encoded at 47 CFR 11.52 (d) (2). The rule will not require any specific delivery technology, since, as noted in the Report and Order, “The technical parameters of the IPAWS system are still evolving -- and the digital world in which that system operates is evolving faster still.” The FCC concluded, “Trying to keep up with these changes while specifying the technical requirements for federal CAP monitoring in the Part 11 rules is neither practical nor administratively efficient.”

FEMA currently uses a dedicated Atom Syndication Format feed that can be periodically polled by EAS encoder/decoder equipment. EAS participants are required to interrupt normal programming for Emergency Action Notifications (EAN) and Required Monthly Tests (RMT) for their State or State/county location.

Further information regarding the IPAWS CAP feed may be found at:
http://www.fema.gov/emergency/ipaws/cap_feed.shtm

THOUSANDS TAKE IPAWS TRAINING COURSE

The IPAWS training course (IS-247) launched in December of 2011. Since then over 2,000 people have completed the course.

The course is a requirement to alert through IPAWS, however, because it offers training about alerts and warnings, many people find it useful regardless of whether they are public safety officials or alerting authorities. For information about the course, visit FEMA’s website at:
<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is247.asp>

SIGN UP FOR IPAWS

There is an easy four step process for emergency management organizations that want to sign up to alert the public through IPAWS.

STEP 1 - Have IPAWS compatible alerting software in place.

STEP 2 - Complete a Memorandum of Agreement with FEMA which governs system security.

STEP 3 – Apply for specific public alerting permissions in accordance with existing State and local operational plans.

STEP 4 – Complete the free IPAWS on-line training course.

For more information about the application process, visit:
http://www.fema.gov/emergency/ipaws/alerting_authorities.shtm

Meet the IPAWS Team

You can learn more about IPAWS at these upcoming conferences:

National Association of Broadcasters – April 14-19, 2012, Las Vegas
National Radiological Emergency Preparedness Conference – April 23-26, 2012, St. Paul, MN
CTIA International Association for Wireless Telecommunications Annual Conference—May 7-10, 2012, New Orleans, LA
Governor’s Hurricane Conference – May 13 - 18, 2012, Ft. Lauderdale, FL



FEMA

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