

# Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)



## Process Map Playbook

Version 1.0

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**FEMA**

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# Process Map Playbook Purpose



## About the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)

The Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) program was created by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in 2006, per Executive Order 13407.

IPAWS is a network of complex systems that lets Federal, State, Tribal, Territorial, and Local Alerting Authorities (AA) send geographically-targeted alerts. IPAWS alerts save lives and protect property by quickly informing the public of impending natural and man-made disasters, or other hazards to public safety and well-being.

Messages created by AAs are verified through the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Open Platform for Emergency Networks (IPAWS-OPEN). Once verified, alerts are sent through the Emergency Alert System (EAS), and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) as well as internet-based and unique alerting systems.



# Process Map Playbook Purpose



## About the Process Map Playbook

The Process Map Playbook illustrates the interconnected processes for Federal, State, Tribal, Territorial, and Local Alerting Authorities (AA) to send alerts through the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS). IPAWS alerts quickly inform the public and save lives and protect property.

This Playbook brings together information from a variety of resources to streamline knowledge for IPAWS stakeholders. IPAWS' stakeholders include the Federal Government, State and Local entities, wireless providers, broadcasters, and others involved with existing and emerging technologies.

The Process Map Playbook demonstrates the importance of preparation, training, resource-sharing, communication, and relationship development.

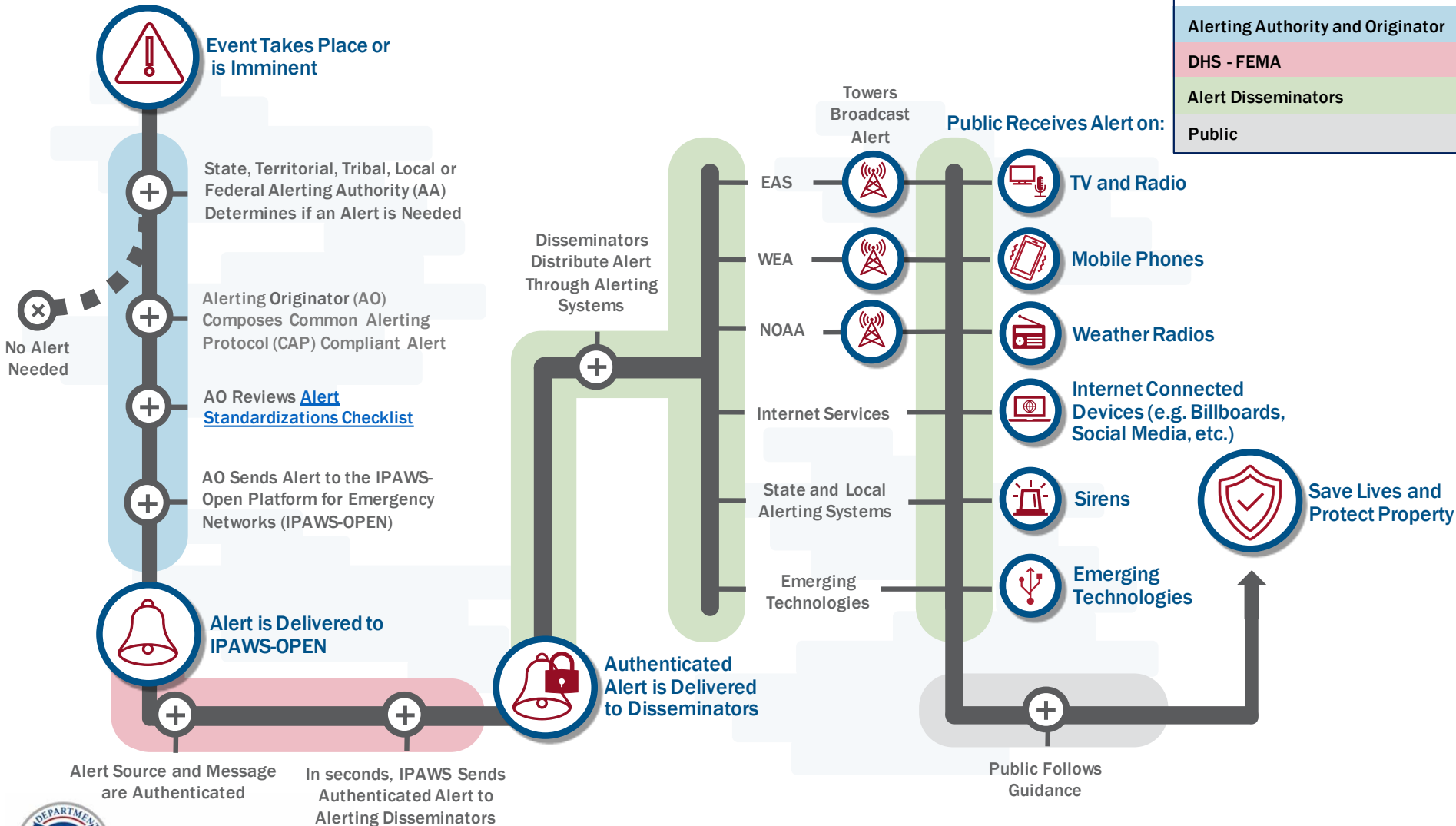


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# Alert Distribution Through Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)

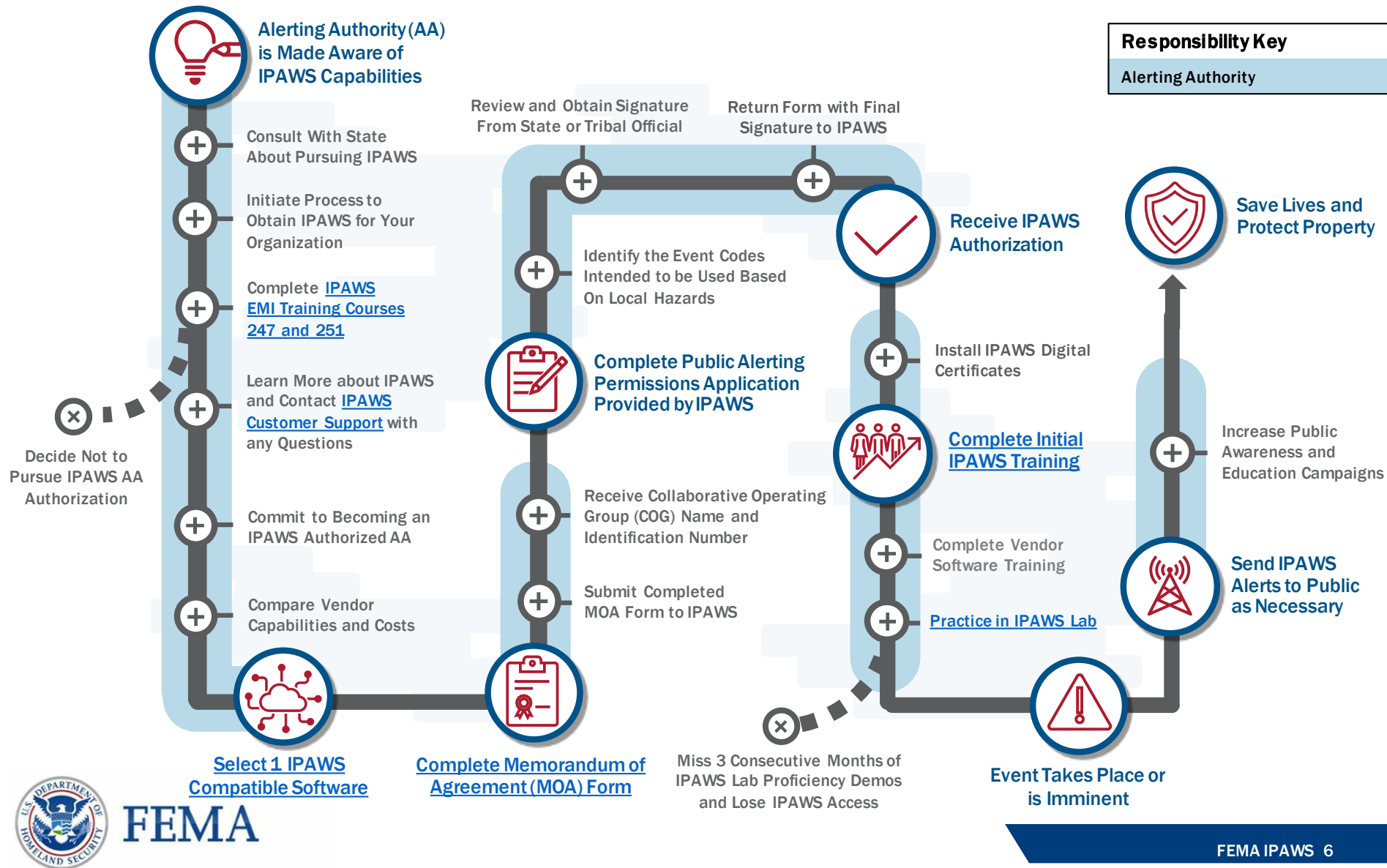
The Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) quickly distributes alerts to the Public through multiple broadcast pathways including the Emergency Alert System (EAS), Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), internet services, state, local, tribal and territorial alerting systems, and emerging technologies as depicted below.

Responsibility Key	
Alerting Authority and Originator	
DHS - FEMA	
Alert Disseminators	
Public	



# Process to Become an IPAWS Alerting Authority (AA)

To become an Alerting Authority (AA), public safety officials must apply for access from the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) to send public alerts and warnings. Visit [How to Sign Up for IPAWS](#) and start [IPAWS Training](#) to begin. The [IPAWS Customer Support Team](#) is available to answer questions about capabilities, considerations and to assist with the application process.



# Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)



## Processes for Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)

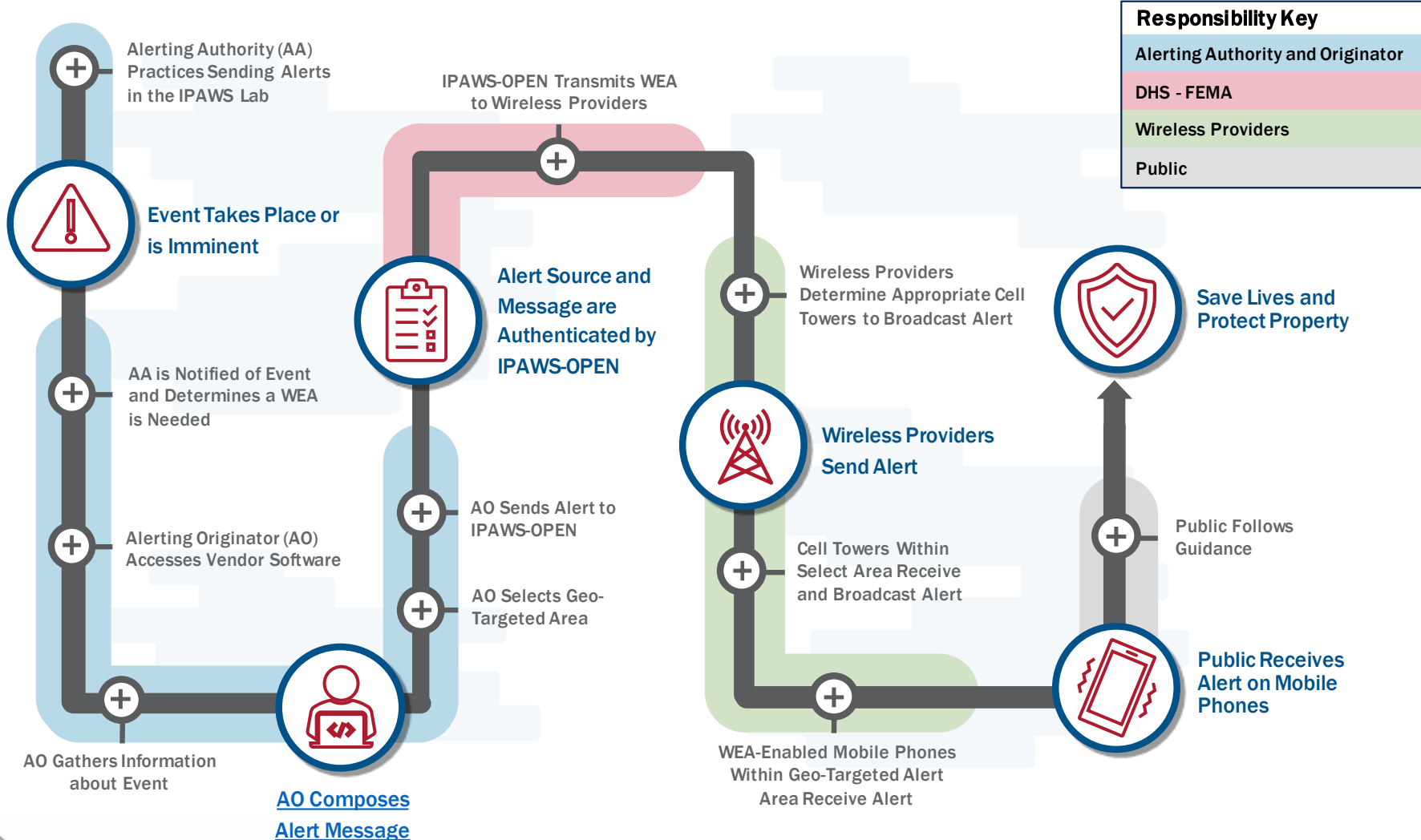


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# Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) Process Map

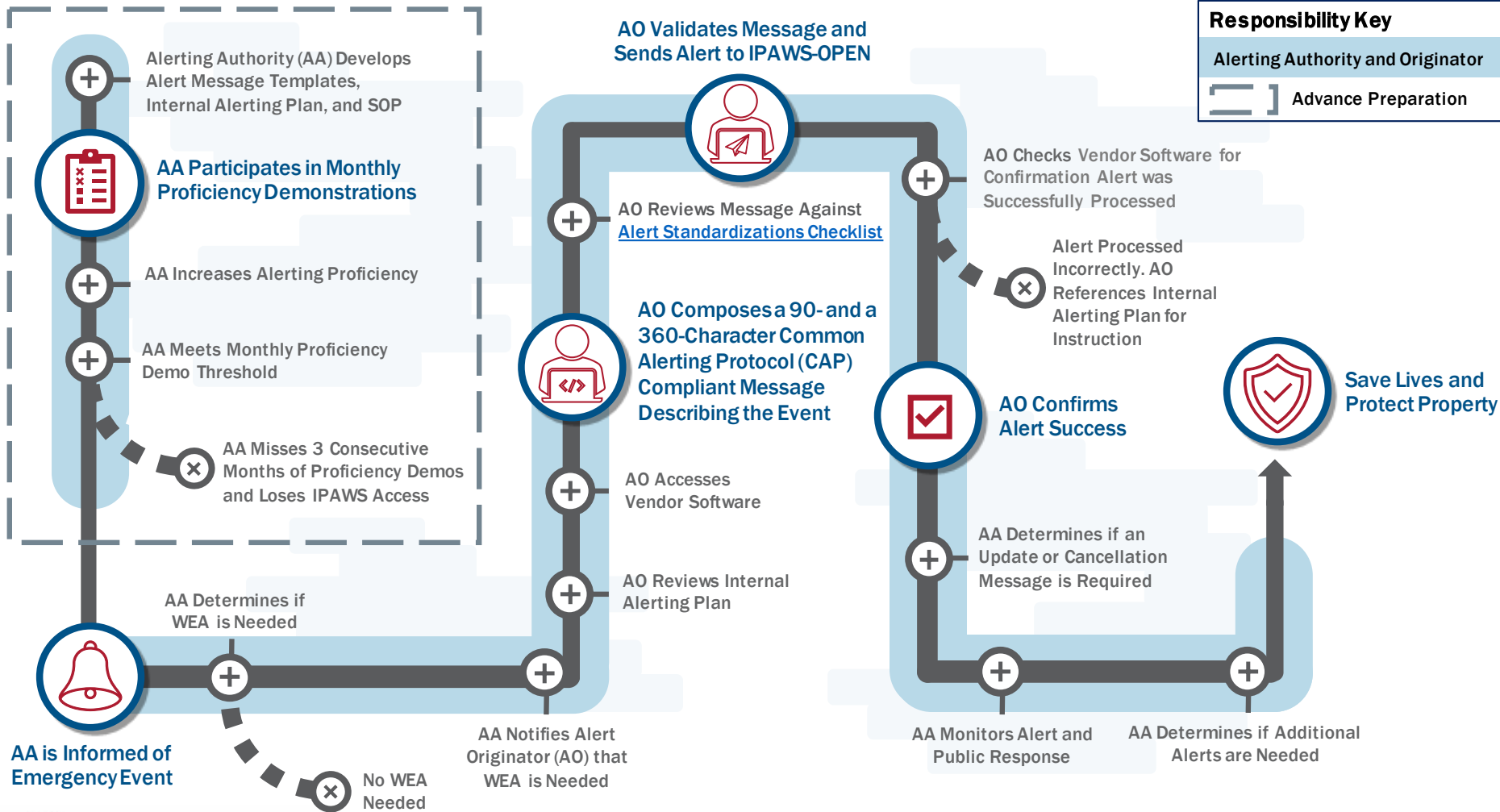
The teamwork of several systems including the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Open Platform for Emergency Networks (IPAWS-OPEN), vendor software, wireless providers and cell towers allows the Public to receive a Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) on their mobile phones within seconds.





# Process for an Alerting Authority to Send a Wireless Emergency Alert

Sending a Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) saves lives and protects property. By participating in the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) training, learning best practices and mastering vendor software, Alerting Authorities (AA) can quickly alert and warn their communities.



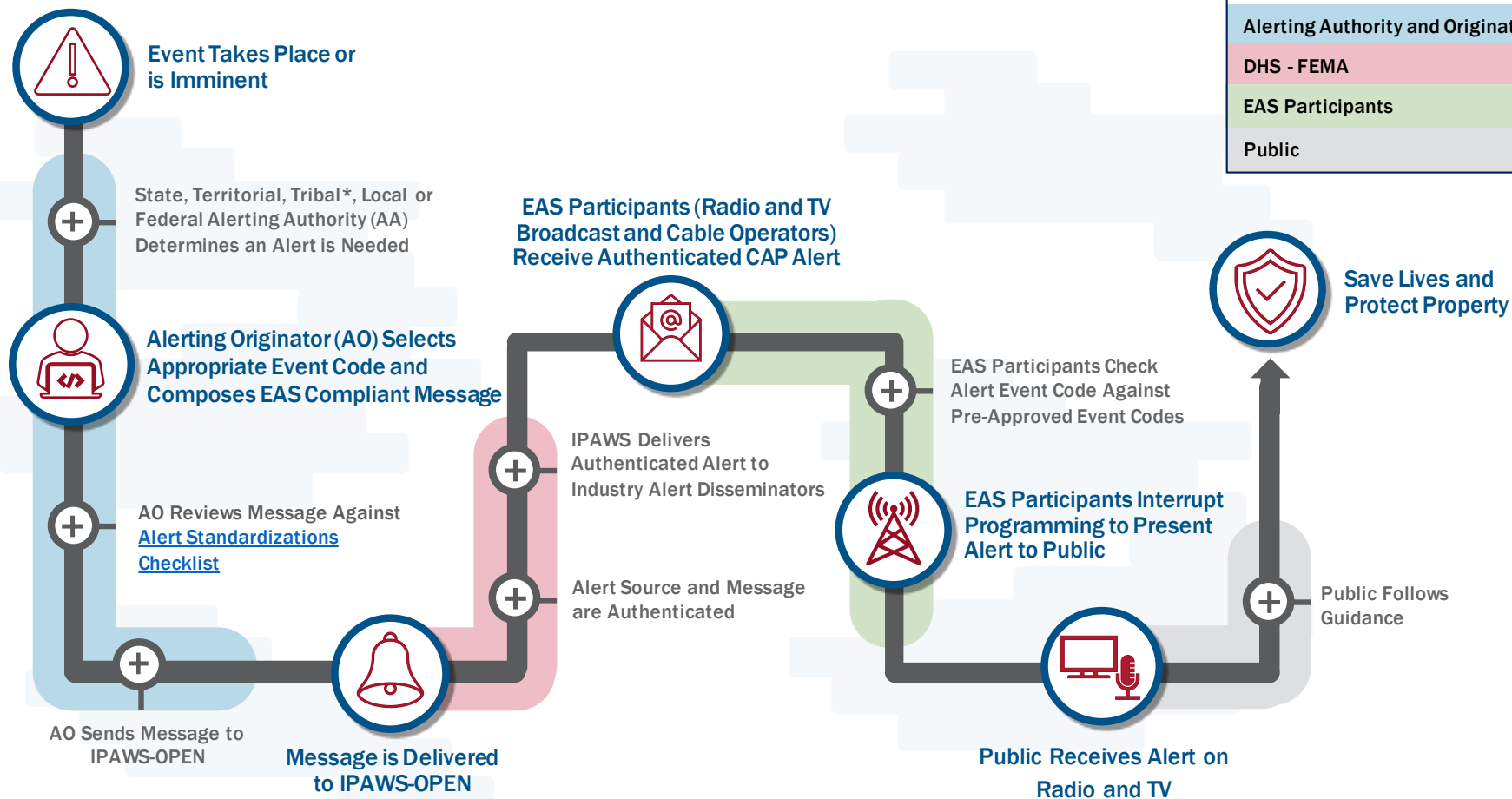
# Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)



## Processes in the Emergency Alert System (EAS)

# Emergency Alert System (EAS) Alert Process Map

The Emergency Alert System (EAS) quickly delivers warnings to the Public through Radio and TV. When sending an alert via the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS), EAS may be selected as a stand-alone distribution pathway or in combination with other IPAWS distribution pathways.



\*Federally-recognized tribal nations are not subject to state alerting review or approval, however, IPAWS PMO encourages coordination between tribal, state and local jurisdictions.

# Alert Standardizations Checklists

The below serve as general checklists for Alert Originators to review and confirm that their Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) messages align with the national and international standard used by the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) to send public alerts and warnings. Further instruction on composing WEA and EAS alerts can be found in the IPAWS Alert and Warning Message Guide.

## EAS

- Determine the appropriate event code
- Compose an English message that:
  - Includes the source of the message
  - Describes the threat or event
  - States the location affected
  - Advises protective action for public to take, when they should take this action, how to accomplish said action, and how the action will reduce impact(s)
  - Includes when to expect the threat to end and/or new information will be received
  - Does not exceed the 1,800-character limit
- If desired, create the same message in Spanish
- If appropriate and compatible with software, include a mp3 audio attachment (2 minutes max.) and/or URL
- Review the composed alert
- Send the composed alert to IPAWS-OPEN
- Continue to monitor event and determine if additional message updates or cancellations are required
- Save lives and protect property

## WEA

- Determine the appropriate event code
- If supported, select the geo-targeted boundaries
- Compose a 90- and 360-character English message that:
  - Includes the source of the message
  - Describes the threat or event
  - States the location affected
  - Advises protective action for the public to take, when they should take this action, how to accomplish said action, and how the action will reduce impact(s)
  - Includes when to expect the threat to end and/or new information will be received
- If desired, create the same message in Spanish
- If appropriate, include a phone number and/or URL
- Review the composed alert
- Send the composed alert to IPAWS-OPEN
- Continue to monitor event and determine if additional message updates or cancellations are required
- Save lives and protect property



# Associated Resources

- [Integrated Public Alert and Warning System \(IPAWS\) Homepage](#)
- [IPAWS Program Planning Toolkit](#)
- [Emergency Alert System \(EAS\)](#)
- [Wireless Emergency Alerts \(WEA\)](#)
- [Alerting Authorities](#)
- [IPAWS Adoption Checklist for Alerting Authorities](#)
- [Alert Origination Software Providers](#)
- [IPAWS Memorandum of Agreement \(MOA\) Application](#)
- [IPAWS Online Training](#)
- [Practice and Train with the IPAWS Lab](#)
- [Emergency Alert System \(EAS\) Participants and Common Alerting Protocol \(CAP\)](#)
- [Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Open Platform for Emergency Networks \(IPAWS-OPEN\)](#)
- [National Public Warning System \(NPWS\)](#)
- [IPAWS Message Viewer](#)

