Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) Alerting on Behalf (AOB)

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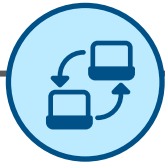# Agenda

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Alert on Behalf Policy Overview

The Alert on Behalf (AOB) Policy provides guidance to support IPAWS' implementation of the National Advisory Council (NAC) Recommendation #11 to alert on behalf of Alerting Authorities

Purpose	Background	Current Status

Purpose

- Provide a **redundant alert origination capability** for alerting authorities

- Allows the **IPAWS PMO to selectively issue a public alert** on behalf of State, local, territorial, and tribal alerting officials

Background
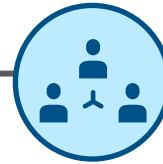
- The need for the AOB policy is based on **actual experiences that were each unique and specific requests** for assistance by the IPAWS Technical Support Services Facility (TSSF)

- In 2021, FEMA IPAWS **established the IPAWS TSSF** to assist alerting officials

Current Status

- ==**The AOB policy will be implemented on October 16, 2023**==

- Alerting officials can register to **participate in scenario-based AOB table top exercises** with the IPAWS TSSF

In the event that an alerting official's primary alerting capability is compromised or fails, alternate alert origination is a critical life-saving capability

Why is the AOB Policy Important?

The ultimate goal of the AOB policy is to improve effectiveness of alert, warning, and notification dissemination to ultimately save more lives

Enhance Readiness Posture

Mitigates Risk

Enhance Internal Processes

Who is Affected by the AOB Policy?

State, Local, Territorial, and Tribal Alerting Officials

The AOB policy applies to State, local, territorial, and tribal AAs that have:

- A signed IPAWS Open Platform for Emergency Networks (IPAWS-OPEN) **Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)**

- An IPAWS Open **Rules of Behavior Statement of Acknowledgement** regarding the use of Interoperable Systems

The Technical Services Support Facility (TSSF)

The IPAWS TSSF is prepared and equipped to respond to AOB requests.

- **Operates 24x7x365** for prompt AOB request resolution

- Has all **capabilities in place** to fully support AOB procedures

What is Changing or Required?

State, Local, Territorial, and Tribal Alerting Officials

In order for FEMA to alert on behalf for an AA, the following must be in place:

Identify a **state, territorial, or tribal 24/7 point of contact (POC)** who is authorized to verify requests on behalf of AAs

Establish an **alert escalation process that leverages cross-jurisdictional support**
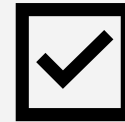
Update your **24/7 POC information** in the IPAWS User Portal
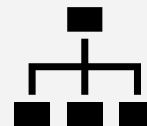
The Technical Services Support Facility (TSSF)

When a 24/7 POC calls, the TSSF will be required to perform the following steps:

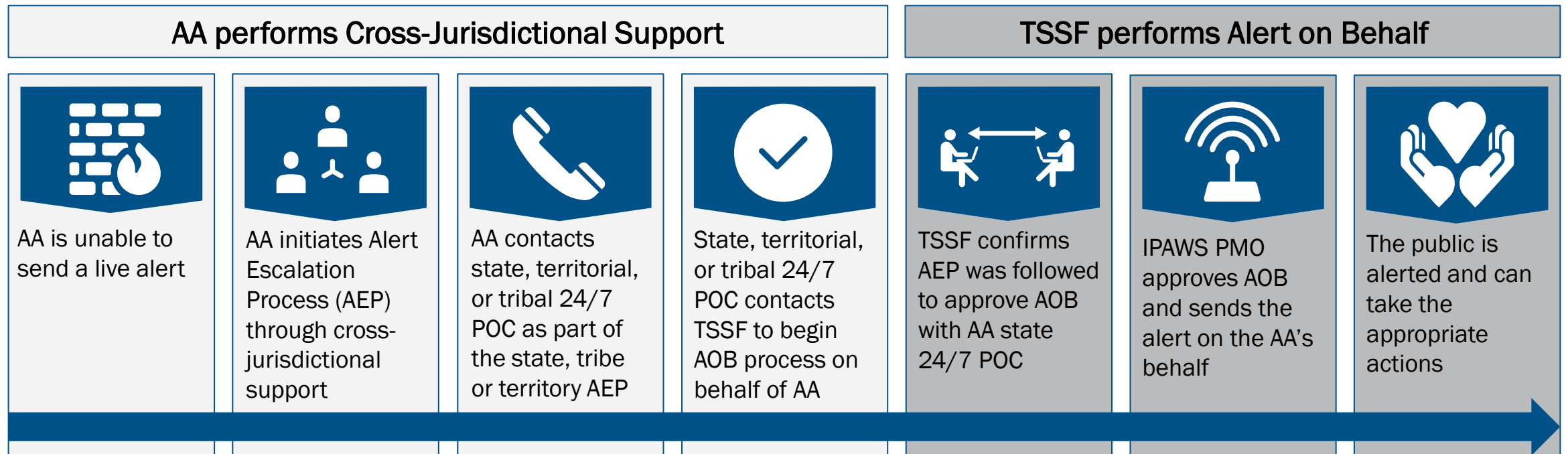Determine the validity of the request by authenticating the caller

Record all incoming calls to comply with federal wire-tap law

Ensure your alert and warning governance structure has been followed

The Alert on Behalf Process

IPAWS TSSF and staff can only Alert on Behalf when a State, Territorial, or Tribal 24/7 POC contacts the TSSF to begin the AOB process on an Alerting Authority's behalf.

AA performs Cross-Jurisdictional Support				TSSF performs Alert on Behalf		
AA is unable to send a live alert	AA initiates Alert Escalation Process (AEP) through cross-jurisdictional support	AA contacts state, territorial, or tribal 24/7 POC as part of the state, tribe or territory AEP	State, territorial, or tribal 24/7 POC contacts TSSF to begin AOB process on behalf of AA	TSSF confirms AEP was followed to approve AOB with AA state 24/7 POC	IPAWS PMO approves AOB and sends the alert on the AA's behalf	The public is alerted and can take the appropriate actions

The TSSF must confirm that State and Local Alerting Authorities have attempted cross-jurisdictional support before initiating the AOB process

Identifying a 24x7 POC
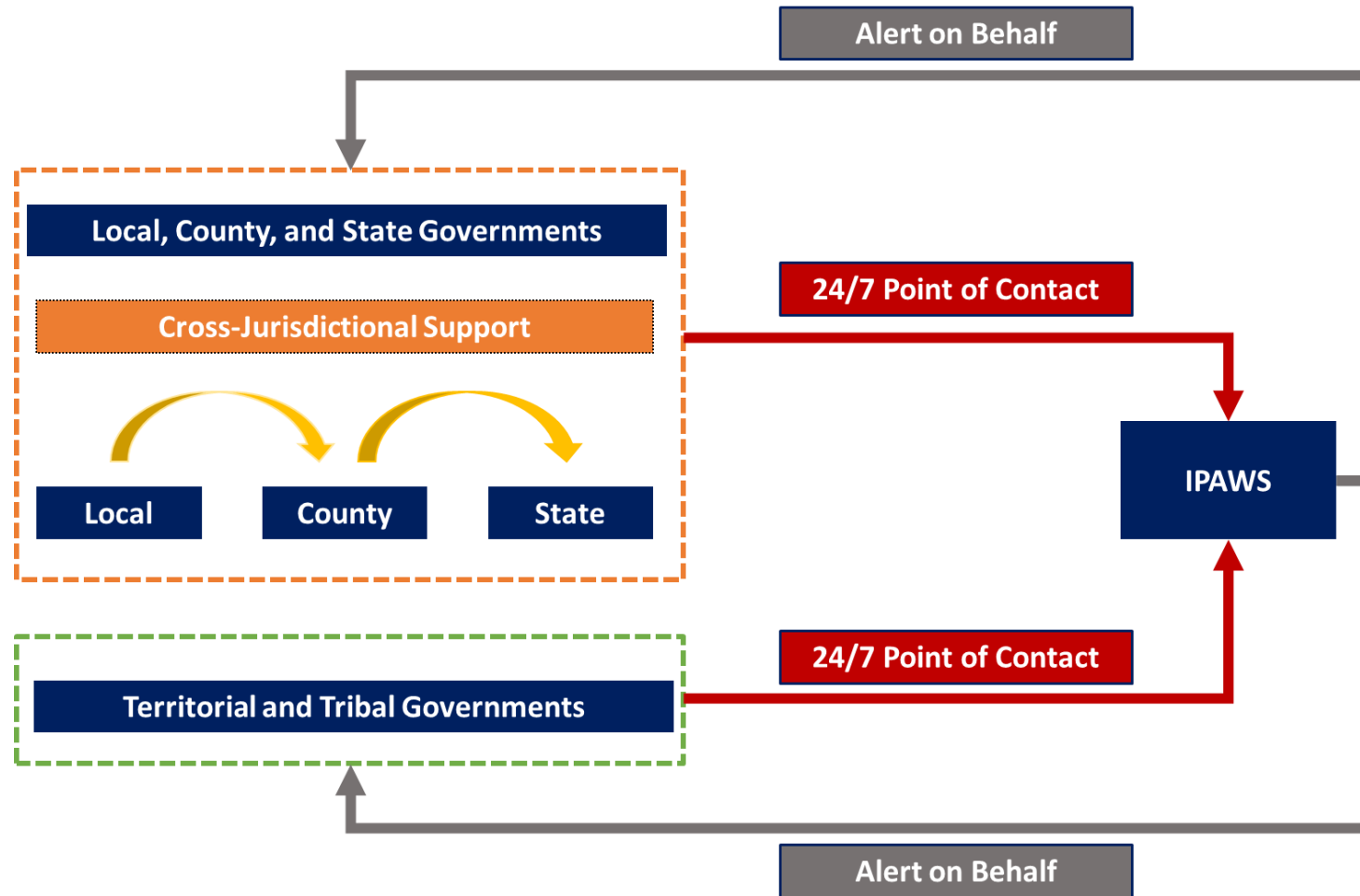
State governments must identify a 24/7 POC who is authorized to verify and validate requests for the TSSF to alert on behalf

Next Steps

Below are the next steps that State, Territorial, and Tribal Emergency Management leads should take to prepare for AOB implementation:

Identify your state, territorial, or tribal 24/7 point of contact (POC) who will verify and validate requests on behalf of AAs in the event of an AOB incident and TSSF contact

State governments establish or finalize their alert escalation processes

Update your 24/7 POC Information in the IPAWS User Portal details

Questions?