

TAB 7

Glossary of Terms

Activation Format	The specific format an EAS activator should follow. The state activation format is addressed on page 21 and Tab 16 of this Plan; the local activation formats are detailed in the local area operational plans outlined in Tabs 12 and 13.
Activator	The entity which initiates an EAS test or alert.
Activation	The initiation of the EAS by transmission of EAS codes.
ASCII Code	A standard set of text characters with numerical equivalents as defined by the American Standard Code for Information Interchange.
Attention Signal	Eight to 25 seconds of two tones used as an audio alert.
Authorization Letter	The official authorization letter, given by the FCC to Non-participating National (NN) stations, for a broadcast station to go off the air during a national level activation of the EAS.
Automatic Interruption	The automatic encoding and transmission of EAS codes for preselected events.
City/County of License	The city or county listed on a broadcast license as the station location.
Class D FM	A station whose output power is 10 watts or less.
DBS	Direct Broadcast Satellite. A service intended to deliver satellite signals directly to consumers using small, relatively inexpensive receive stations.
DEM	Division/Department of Emergency Management.
DES	Division/Department of Emergency Services.
EAN	Emergency Action Notification. A national level EAS alert.
EAT	Emergency Action Termination. The message for national EAS termination.
EAN Network	The interconnection of the federal government with national networks and program suppliers used to disseminate the EAN message.
EAS	Emergency Alert System. EAS is comprised of broadcast networks; cable networks and program suppliers; AM, FM, and TV broadcast stations; LPTV stations; cable systems; and other entities and industries operating on an organized basis during emergencies at the National, State, or local levels. It requires that at a minimum all participants use a common EAS protocol, as defined in FCC Rules Part 11.31, to send and receive emergency alerts. EAS replaced EBS [11.11].
EAS alert	An EAS activation in an actual emergency.
EAS Decoder	A device which monitors sources and decodes incoming EAS messages.

EAS Encoder	A device used by EAS participants to originate EAS alerts by creating the EAS codes for transmission to other participants and to the public.
EAS test	EAS activation for testing purposes.
EBS	Emergency Broadcast System. An outdated system for providing emergency information to the public. It was replaced by EAS in January, 1997.
End of Message code EOC	ASCII data string which signifies the end of an EAS message. Emergency Operations Center.
Event Code	A three-character ASCII code in the EAS header that denotes the type of event for which an EAS test or alert is issued.
FIPS Codes	Federal Information Processing System number assigned to states and counties.
FCC	Federal Communications Commission. One of three federal agencies that participate in EAS.
FCC Mapbook	An FCC document which organizes all broadcast stations according to their State, EAS Local Area and EAS designation [11.21c]. This list is attached to the state plan by the FCC.
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Administration. One of three federal agencies that participate in EAS.
Header Code	A single string of intelligent ASCII data that includes the originator, event, location, time period, and other basic information concerning an EAS test or alert.
Julian Calendar	A method of specifying the date by the number of days which have passed since the first day of January in a year.
Key Source	A source which is central to the dissemination of emergency alerts and information, such as an NP, SRN, LRN, or LP broadcast station.
LAECC	Local Area Emergency Communications Committee.
Local Operational Area	A operational subdivision of the state.
Local Area Plan	The plan developed by a committee in each local operational area which outlines the EAS system and procedures for that particular area. The local area plan for the appropriate operational area is included in this State plan. See Tabs 12 and 13).
Location Code	A six-digit ASCII code in the EAS header that specifies the location of an emergency utilizing the five character FIPS code of a state and county, and a sixth character to designate one of nine divisions of a county.
LP	Local Primary. A key source within a local area that is the primary source of EAS programming for that local area.
LPTV	Low-power television station.

LRN	Local Relay Network. A system of facilities used to distribute Local EAS activation and programming throughout a local area.
MDS Station	Multipoint Distribution System station. A facility which delivers a signal to several specific locations.
Monitoring Assignment	The assignment made by the SECC to each broadcast station and cable system designating the sources each facility should monitor for incoming EAS messages.
National alert	EAS alert of national origin.
National Control Point Procedures	Those national EAS procedures used only by national networks and program suppliers.
NIC	National Information Center. A source of official federal government information.
NN	Non-participating National station. A broadcast station that has elected not to participate in the National-level EAS and removes its carrier from the air if a national-level activation occurs.
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. One of three federal agencies that participate in EAS.
NOAA Weather Radio	A service of the National Weather Service that provides continuous broadcasts of the latest weather information and any weather-related emergency warnings to a local area. NWR uses seven VHF radio frequencies.
NP	A primary source of Presidential or other national EAS activations and programming, including broadcast station involved with the PEP system and EAN networks.
NWR	NOAA Weather Radio.
NWS	National Weather Service. NWS is an operation of NOAA that is directly responsible for issuing local weather-related emergency alerts and warnings in addition to day-to-day forecasts and other weather activities.
Operational Handbook	A document issued by the FCC that instructs broadcast station and cable personnel of the actions they must take during an EAS activation.
Originator	The entity which originates an EAS alert.
Originator Code	A three-character ASCII code in the EAS header that identifies the entity which originates an EAS test or alert.
PEP	Primary Entry Point. Key broadcast stations throughout the U.S. which together can provide national emergency information in the event that the primary national alerting methods are inoperable.
PN	Participating National. Broadcast stations, cable systems, or MDS stations which monitor primary sources of EAS programming and directly feed emergency alerts to the public.

Preselected Code	An EAS event which the operator of EAS equipment has chosen to be automatically encoded and retransmitted upon reception.
Protocol	A standard set of guidelines by which digital information is encoded and decoded, including the common code structure, the character set used, the sequence and timing of codes, and modulation technique used for radio transmission.
Program Priorities	The precedence of the information that must be transmitted during an EAS activation, namely national, local and state activations in that order.
Re-Transmission Agreement	Signed agreements between the SECC and certain broadcast (LP) stations that define what the station will monitor and what types of activations will be re-transmitted.
RMT	Required Monthly Test. A coordinated monthly test of EAS operations involving the full receiving and transmission of EAS codes, attention signal, EAS test programming, and EAS end-of-message codes.
RWT	Required Weekly Test. An independent weekly test of EAS equipment only involving the decoding and encoding of EAS header codes and end-of-message codes.
SAME	Specific area message encoder
SECC	State Emergency Communications Committee.
Sources	Monitor inputs to EAS decoders.
SR	State Relay radio system on 155.475 Mhz.
State EAS plan	This document, which outlines the organization and implementation of EAS in Washington State. It includes monitoring assignments, actions to be taken in emergency activations, and other guidance for broadcasters and cable personnel in use of the EAS.
SP	State Primary. A primary source of EAS state programming which can originate with a Governor or designated representative, such as a state's emergency operations officer.
SR	State Relay. An entity which receives and retransmits EAS activations in the State Relay Network to assist in bringing a state activation to all Local Areas of a state.
SRN	State Relay Network. A system of facilities used to distribute state EAS activations and programming across the state.
State/Local alert	EAS alert of state or local origin.
Termination Script	Specific scripts, specified in the State Plan (for local and state EAS activations), which signal the end of an EAS activation.
Test Script	The audio portion of the RMT. The actual wording to the test script is

decided upon by the SECC and included in the state plan.

Time-Duration Code	A four-digit ASCII code in the EAS header that defines how long the EAS activation is valid.
Translator	A radio or television facility which receives a signal on one frequency and transmits it on another frequency.
UTC	Coordinated Universal Time. The world-wide common time standard that is used in EAS headers for time stamp.
Valid Code	An EAS header which has been matched bit-for-bit with one of two other received headers thereby checked for validity.
WRSAME	Weather Radio Specific Area Message Encoder. A device used by the NWS to broadcast data on the NWR system for day-to-day forecasts and weather-related emergency announcements.