

**SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY  
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**



**ANNEX I – RISK COMMUNICATIONS**

**APPENDIX 2 – EMERGENCY ALERT  
SYSTEM (EAS)**

**December 2003**

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## SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 History

EAS program is an outgrowth of the Emergency Broadcast Program, which had its roots in the Civ-Alert system. San Joaquin was a separate Local Area, and conducted emergency operations through KJOY AM radio station. This Local Area also warned for Calaveras and Alpine Counties.

### 1.2 Area of Coverage

San Joaquin Operational Area is part of a Sacramento-Sierra Local Area, comprising of 16 counties.

### 1.3 Purpose

This Appendix outlines how EAS will be conducted in accordance with the SAC-Sierra EAS Plan.

### 1.4 Types of Warnings

EAS is used for warnings of *an immediate actions*, such as severe thunderstorms or tornadoes, forecast or actually occurring, evacuations of areas due to an incident (such as a hazardous spill) or a tsunami, or other event requiring immediate action.

Watches and statements of the National Weather Service (NWS) do not require this type of immediate action.

### 1.5 Local Area EAS Plan

This plan follows the Local Area Plan that was developed under the Sacramento-Sierra Local Area Emergency Committee (LECC).

### 1.6 Participation and Priorities

All mandated participants in the Emergency Alert System must have the capability to conduct activations and tests. All voluntary participants may have the capability to conduct activations and tests.

Other than National EAS messages and those of the National Weather Service (NWS), activation and tests may only be done by designated officials, in accordance with the local and state plan.

(See Section 2.5).

The priority for activations and tests are:

- (1) National level messages
- (2) Local area messages
- (3) State messages
- (4) National Information Center (NIC)

#### 1.6.1 National EAS Participation

All broadcasters and cable operators are required to participate in the National-level EAS. In addition, all broadcasters and cable operators must transmit a Required Weekly test (RWT), and once a month, must retransmit the Required Monthly Test (RMT) within 15-minutes or receiving it on their EAS Decoder.

#### 1.6.2 State and Local Participation

Participation in the State and/or Local Area EAS is voluntary for all broadcasters and cable operators. However, stations generally choose to participate because of public response. Stations and cable operators who elect to participate in the State and/or Local Area EAS must then follow the procedures found in the SAC-Sierra EAS Local Plan.

### 1.7 **Authorities**

Code references:

- 47 CFR Part II EAS Rules,
- 47 CFR Part 73 Broadcast Service Rules
- 47 CFR Part 76 Cable Television Service Rules
- FEMA Civil Preparedness Guide 1-40, 1-41
- FCC Sacramento-Sierra Local Area Plan

### 1.8 **Area Threats**

The geographical area covered by this plan is the border of San Joaquin County. The SAC-Sierra EAS plan covers multiple counties.

Threats that this plan may be needed are found in Section 2 of the Multi-Hazard Functional Plan.

## SECTION 2: OPERATIONS

### 2.1 Local Primary

- LP1: KFBK 1530

Must monitor:

- KCBS 740 KHz San Francisco
- KKOH 780 KHz Reno, NV
- NWR 162.400 MHz Jackson
- CLERS 154.710 MHZ Mt. Diablo, alameda County

Recommended:

- EDIS 450.0375 MHz Mt. Diablo

- LP2: KSTN 1420/KOSO 93.1 (South Zone; San Joaquin and Calaveras):

Must monitor:

- KOSO (FM) 93.1 LP1 Station; Stanislaus-Tuolumne
- NWR 162.550 MHz Jackson, Ca
- CLERS 154.710 MHz Mt. Diablo

Recommended:

- KCBS 740 KHz San Francisco

### 2.2 Broadcasters

Broadcast stations, including cable, serving the south zone (Calaveras and San Joaquin County) of the FCC Sacramento-Sierra Local Area, must monitor:

- KFBK 1530 KHz
- KSTN 1420/KOSO 93.1
- In addition, but not in lieu of, the following are recommended: any others listed the SAC-Sierra EAS Plan, such as NWR, CLERS, EDIS, KCBS 740 KHz

### 2.3 Authorized EAS Event Codes

- CEM Civil Emergency Message

Used for any life & property-threatening emergency that requires people to take action. These can be a Technological Emergency, or Civil Emergency. Examples include

shelter-in-place, AMBER Alert; avoid entry to an area, awareness of high threat situation (i.e. wind, flood, tornado).

- EVI        Evacuate Immediate

Used for events that require people to leave the area they are in. This county does not recognize any other term; such as voluntary, recommended, mandatory, advisory evacuation.

- DMO        Demonstration/Practice

For testing or training on the proper use of EAS activation procedures. Can be used in conjunction of an exercise.

- ADM (optional)    Administrative Message

Not required by broadcasters to monitor and forward. This can be used for testing or passing information to other area jurisdictions, or broadcasters willing to monitor this event.

### 2.3.1 National Weather Service (NWS) Event Codes

NWS retains the sole authority to issue events that are considered weather related.

If for some reason a local official determines they should issue weather related Event Code, the CEM code must be made.

## 2.4 **FIPS Codes**

This code is used to program EAS receivers so only selected counties, or part of counties will be alerted. Most transmitters can reach up to 50-miles, so agencies, businesses, or homeowners may want to limit EAS reception if it does not fall within a selected geographical area.

See Attachment:

- EAS EVENT CODES & FIPS CODES
- EAS Planning Area

## 2.5 **AMBER Alerts**

Under the AMBER Alert concept, law enforcement agencies employ the assistance of local radio and television (including cable) stations to interrupt normal programming and request public assistance in locating children who have just been abducted. Emergency bulletins are relayed from law enforcement agencies to the media through the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and the Emergency Digital Information Service (EDIS).

A separate procedure manual has been developed by a coordinated effort of California Highway Patrol, Attorney General, and California Broadcasters Association. This manual identifies:

- Roles and responsibilities of law enforcement, media, and support agencies
- When and how to activate an AMBER Alert
- Contact information on resource agencies
- Convenient AMBER Alert Activation Guide to be used by law enforcement
- References and resource material to aid in the recovery of abducted children
- Copies of sample local plans

## 2.6 Authority to Activate EAS

### 2.6.1 Designated Local Officials

The Sacramento-Sierra Local Emergency Communications Committee has tasked the Operational Area – Office of Emergency Services Coordinator to determine whom, and which jurisdictions, will have authority to activate an EAS. This would be activation without any additional approvals by another agency.

### 2.6.2 San Joaquin Jurisdictions

The previous EBS Local Emergency Communications Committee, made up of licensed broadcasters, in San Joaquin County, had developed a list of activators they approved. The San Joaquin County OES Director had determined to continue with this list.

In turn, the OES Director has tasked each incorporated City Manager to develop a list of officials, or positions, that they would permit to request EAS activation through an approved Activator.

#### Designated Officials, EAS Activation

- Chairman, Board of Supervisors
- County Administrator
- County Office of Emergency Services – Duty Officer
- Sheriff

## 2.7 Activation Procedures

A separate activation procedure has been provided to each Activator, and a different version for Requestors. Training on conducting activation is carried out several times a year.

## 2.8 Activation Equipment

Encoders/Decoders:

- San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office, Communications Center
- San Joaquin County, OES
- California Highway Patrol – Stockton Division

In addition, these Encoders/Decoders are equipped to receive activation through a telephone access component. This allows off-site activation rather than the need to physically be at the equipment piece.

**SECTION 3: ATTACHMENTS**

- Glossary of Terms
- EAS Event Codes & FIPS Codes (Federal Information Processing Identifier System)
- F.C.C. EAS Local Areas Map
- San Joaquin EAS Planning Areas
- EAS Activation Form
- AMBER Activation Criteria
- AMBER Sample Message
- AMBER Blank Message