

FCC Seeks Comment on Proposed Changes to EAS Rules

On June 26 the FCC released a [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) (NPRM) that proposes revision to the EAS rules to address problems encountered during the first nationwide EAS test in November 2011. The NPRM states that these actions are the first in a series of steps to enhance the existing paradigm for the testing, exercise and use of the EAS in a way that maximizes its overall effectiveness as a public alert and warning system and that the proposed rule changes are necessary to facilitate another nationwide EAS test in the near future.

At 2:00 p.m., EDT, on Wednesday, November 9, 2011, FEMA initiated the first ever nationwide test by transmitting an Emergency Action Notification (EAN) to the EAS Primary Entry Point (PEP) stations. This was a so called "live code" test because it employed the code that would be used by the President in an actual emergency. EAS participants were required to submit nationwide test result data to the Commission within 45 days following the test (i.e., by December 27, 2011) either with a paper filing or through an on-line electronic reporting system. (See Section 11.61(a)(3)(iv) of the Rules).

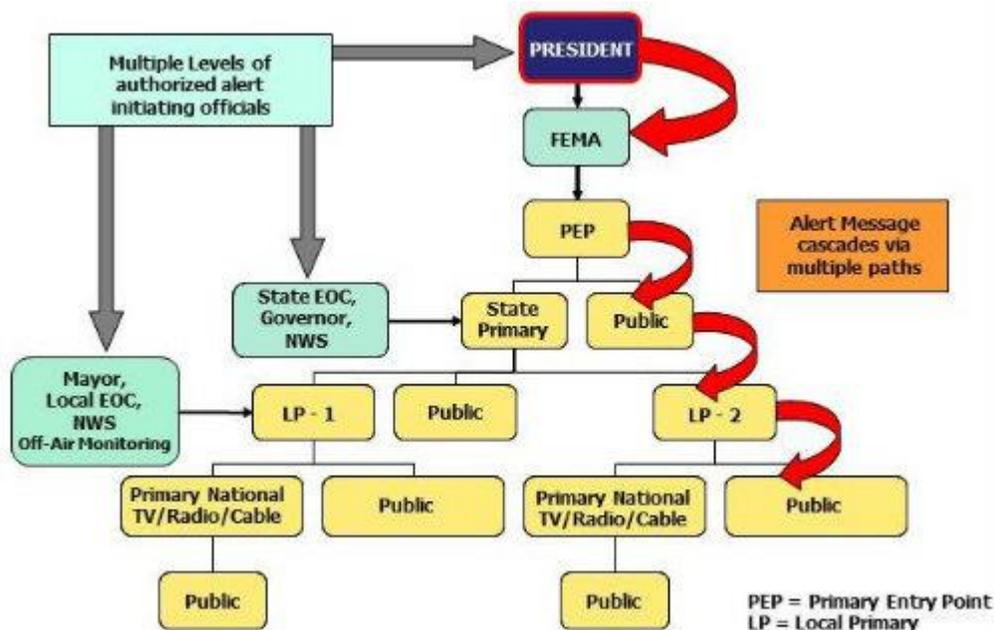


Figure 1 from NPRM: EAS Architecture

In April 2013, the FCC's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau released a [report](#) that summarized the findings from the test and made recommendations for strengthening the EAS. On September 23, 2013, the FCC released the [EAS Operational Issues Public Notice](#) seeking comment steps it could take to address the issues raised by the November, 2011 test.

Based on the information contained in the report and gathered from the Public Notice and the FCC has proposed changes to the EAS rules that will help facilitate future national wide tests. The NPRM seek comment on four proposals regarding the National Periodic Test. The NPRM proposes:

- To establish a national location code for EAS alerts issued by the President. Currently, there is no EAS location code (i.e. FIPS code) that designates the entire United States. The FCC proposes to adopt a National Location Code of all zeros (000000)
- To require the use of a National Periodic Test (NPT) code for future nationwide tests but seeks comment on how such a code should be processed. The FCC asks whether an NPT should be processed in the same manner as an EAN (thus preempting all other alerts) or should be treated like any other test code.
- To require EAS Participants to file national test result data electronically via EAS Test Reporting System (ETRS). The FCC has also proposed to mandate that stations update their information in ETRS annually.
- To require EAS participants to meet minimal standards to ensure that EAS alerts are accessible to all members of the public, including those with disabilities. The FCC has asked for comment on such issues as mandating a specific text crawl speed, adopting rules regarding the completeness of the information contained in an emergency crawl and the placement of the crawl similar to regulations recently adopted for closed captions.

The NPRM proposes a six month compliance date (after final Rule adoption) for stations to upgrade equipment to implement the new national location and NPT codes. However, the FCC acknowledges that there may be complexities in implementing a NPT code that fully emulates the behavior of an EAN and seeks comment on an appropriate amount of time needed.

Finally, the NPRM addressed two issues that were raised as a result of the nationwide test. The FCC reaffirmed that all EAS decoders must: (1) always fully process the header data in an EAN and (2) retransmit an EAN immediately upon receipt.

The NPRM has not yet been published in the Federal Register. Comments will be due to the FCC 30 days and reply comments will be due 45 days after the NPRM's publication in the Federal Register.

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Participation in USTechVets.org is free to any NAB member company. To get started, a primary human resources or recruiting contact at your company should [apply](#) for an employer login to the site. Once logged in, you can post jobs manually, search the site's database of more than 800,000 veteran resumes, and add additional recruiters to your company's account.

Monster.com, one of the primary partners of USTechVets.org, provides helpful video tutorials on the site. You can also click [here](#) for tips on how to create an account or [here](#) for tips on posting jobs. In addition, Monster will host webinars to guide employers on how to get the most value out of the job board and resume database. Please email veterans@nvtc.org for dates and call-in information for future webinars.

If your company already has active postings on Monster.com, those jobs will automatically be reposted to the USTechVets.org job board at no additional cost. However, if you do not want your company's Monster.com jobs reposted to the [USTechVets.org](#) site, you must notify NAB by August 1, 2014 by emailing membership@nab.org.

Finally, NAB members who have a job board on their company website can elect to have specific jobs reposted to the [USTechVets.org](#) job board for a small fee. To learn more about this option, please contact Ted Wadsworth at ted.wadsworth@monster.com.

NAB is pleased to offer this valuable resource to our members. If you have any questions, please email Chris Vane email cvane@nab.org or (202) 429-5400.

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Los Angeles, CA

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October 15 - October 17, 2014

San Antonio, TX