

October 31, 2011



TV TechCheck



The Weekly NAB Newsletter for Television Broadcast Engineers

Nine Days and Counting until Nationwide EAS Test

The first nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) is only 9 days away. Now is the time to make sure your station is fully prepared. The test will be conducted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on **Wednesday, November 9, 2011 at approximately 2 p.m. (EST)**.

All radio and television stations must participate in the Nationwide EAS Test, and should take immediate steps to prepare for the test. For all of the important information and guidance needed to successfully prepare your station for this test, please visit [NAB's Nationwide EAS Test](#).

This resource includes two new critical pieces of information that the FCC released this week:

- 1. Nationwide EAS Test Handbook.** All stations must download this handbook and place a copy at normal duty positions or EAS equipment locations when an operator is required to be on duty. This handbook must be immediately available to staff responsible for administering the Nationwide EAS Test. This new handbook will supersede all other EAS handbooks for the duration of the November 9, 2011 Nationwide EAS Test.
- 2. Nationwide EAS Test Reporting System.** FCC rules require all participants in the Nationwide EAS Test to submit certain test result data to the FCC no later than Tuesday, December 27, 2011. Although you may file this information in paper form, the FCC has launched an online system intended to simplify the process of reporting your test results, together with instructions for completing the online reporting system.

The Nationwide EAS Test Handbook and Reporting System can be found on the [FCC's EAS Nationwide Test](#) webpage, as well as [NAB's Nationwide EAS Test](#) website.

Please make sure to consult the FCC's [Public Notice](#) announcing the Handbook and Reporting System for further information.

All stations should air public service announcements (PSAs) designed to increase public awareness of the Nationwide EAS Test. [NAB's Nationwide EAS Test](#) website features a variety of radio and television PSAs, as well as sample scripts stations may use to tailor and produce their own PSA. All stations should download and air one or more of these PSAs, starting immediately and with increasing frequency as November 9 approaches. NAB is now creating its own TV PSA and more information will be available on NAB's Nationwide EAS Test Website.

Additional information is available on our [website](#), including a Nationwide EAS Test visual slide that television stations should insert during the test to help persons with hearing disabilities and other viewers fully comprehend that the November 9 event is merely a test. Stations will also find an [EAS Best Practices Guide](#) and [EAS Toolkit](#) produced by FEMA, tips for getting ready for the test, and other useful guidance. Please bookmark NAB's website and visit it regularly for additional information that may be released before the test on November 9.

Broadcasters are the backbone of the Emergency Alert System. We are a critical lifeline for many Americans during times of disaster, and given our indispensable role as first informers during emergencies, it is imperative that we work with our federal partners to regularly test the EAS system.

Please visit NAB's Nationwide EAS Test [NAB's Nationwide EAS Test](#) website to learn more. NAB's Legal and Regulatory Department (866) 682-0276 or (202) 429-5430 or Technology Department (202) 429-5346 are also ready to help.

NAB Accepting Nomination for 2012 NAB Engineering Achievement Awards

NAB is currently accepting nominations for the 2012 NAB Engineering Achievement Awards. Established in 1959, the NAB Engineering Achievement Award is presented each year to an individual for their outstanding accomplishments in the broadcast industry. In 1991, NAB began giving awards separately for achievements in radio and television. The award winners will be recognized at the Technology Luncheon at 2012 NAB Show on April 18 in Las Vegas, Nev.

Additional information and a nomination form are available on NAB's [website](#). The deadline for nominations is January 23, 2012.

REMINDER

Don't forget to check to see if your PSIP generator is sending the correct data. A month before the change in daylight savings time (November 6 this year), it is required to send specific data in the STT. Right now, the DS_day_of_month field must contain the value 7, and the DS_hour field must contain the time when the stations will switch (officially 2, but some stations may transition at a different time). The DS_status bit must be "1" indicating it is still daylight saving time.

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