

Emergency

Alert

System

IMPERIAL COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

LOCAL EMERGENCY AREA PLAN

CA-Imperial Local Emergency Communications Committee

October 2010

Emergency Alert System (EAS) -

The EAS is a warning system intended to provide the public with information that may affect life and property. An EAS warning may be for a local area or widespread - parts of a city, sections of specified areas (such as a county or parts of adjoining counties), a part or all of a region; or several states or the entire nation.

The EAS is a way to quickly provide emergency information quickly via broadcast radio, television stations and cable systems. The EAS replaces the Emergency Broadcast System. Broadcast and cable licensees participate on a voluntary organized basis for Local and State warnings, while Federal warnings and local area tests are mandatory.

Types of Warnings -

The EAS may be activated in response to emergencies called by designated Local, State and Federal Officials. Such emergencies include, but are not limited to 911 system failure, toxic release, civil disturbance, severe weather conditions and events following an earthquake.

Local Area EAS Plan -

The Local Area EAS Plan is a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) mandated document for the organization and implementation of the EAS for areas into which a state may be divided. The number of areas depends on state size and geography as well as radio and television coverage. All or parts of an area may receive stronger or more consistent broadcast signals from an adjoining area or state and may be assigned to the EAS plan of that area or state by concurrence of the SECC and LECC of the involved states and area(s), and amendment of the affected Local Area and State EAS plans.

The Local Area Plan is approved by the FCC under authority of Part 11 of the FCC Rules and Regulations. The Local Area Plan augments, but does not replace Part 11. Acceptance of or participation in this plan by FCC licensees shall not be deemed as a relinquishment of program control and shall not be deemed to prohibit a FCC licensee from exercising independent discretion and responsibility in a given situation. Stations relaying EAS emergency communications shall be deemed to have rebroadcast authority and shall be held free of any liability as a result of EAS activations.

Organization -

Responsibility with administering the Local Area Plan rests with the members of a Local Area Emergency Communications Committee (LECC). The LECC Chair and Vice Chair are appointed by the State Emergency Communications Committee Chair (SECC). The SECC and State Vice Chair are appointed by the FCC.

This is the Emergency Alert System (EAS) Plan for the Imperial County FCC Local Area. This plan is a part of the State of California Emergency Alert System Plan, both of which replace the Emergency Broadcast System plans and procedures.

This Plan consists of a cover page, an introduction, a map of the CA-Imperial Local Area, Abbreviations, and Communications Operation Orders CA-Imperial COO1-COO7.

Implementation -

Procedures and implementation of this plan include coordination with the National Weather Service (NWS).

Local Emergency Area Plans are signed by the Local Area Chair and Vice Chair for Cable, a National Weather Service (NWS) representative, the SECC Chair and the Federal Communications Commission.

Amendments as may follow, when signed by the LECC, SECC and approved by the FCC, are incorporated herein by reference.

The operational date of this plan is the date it is approved and signed by the SECC Chair. When it is approved and signed by the FCC, the LECC chair shall cause a copy to be distributed to all stations, cable system operators, and emergency managers and agencies.

This FCC Local Area includes all of the broadcast radio and cable television stations and all cable system operators in and serving Imperial County.

FIPS code	County
06025	Imperial County

Adjoining Counties:

06043	San Diego County
06035	Riverside
04027	Yuma, Az

List of Abbreviations

AM	Amplitude Modulation (Standard Broadcast Stations)
CATV	Cable Television
COO	Communications Operations Order
DOC	U.S. Department of Commerce
EAS	Emergency Alert System
EOM	End of Message
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
FIPS	Federal Information Processing Identifier System
FM	Frequency Modulation (FM Broadcast Radio Stations)
kHz	kilo Hertz (transmission frequency in 1,000's cycles/second)
LECC	Local Emergency Communications Committee
LP	Local Primary (broadcast station)
LT	Local Time (Pacific Time Zone)
MHz	Mega Hertz (transmission frequency in 1,000,000's cycles/second)
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NWR	NOAA Weather Radio
NWS	National Weather Service
OES	Office of Emergency Services (county or state [CA])

COMMUNICATIONS ORDER CA-IMPERIAL NUMBER 1(COO-1)

MONITOR PLAN

1.0 LP1 station is KXO/AM 1230 KHz (El Centro)

1.0.1 LP1 alternate station is KXO/FM 107.5 MHz (El Centro)

1.0.2 LP1S (Spanish Language Station) There is no LP1S at this time.

1.1 The LP1 stations will monitor:

KFI	640 KHz Los Angeles
NWR (WXL87)	162.55 MHz Black Mtn
CLERS	158.790 MHz

1.1.1 The LP1S station will monitor

NWR (WXL87)	162.55 MHz
KXO AM or FM	1230kHz or 107.5 MHz
LP2	

1.2 The LP2 station ..There is no LP2 station at this time.

It is recommended that all stations monitor the NWS (WXL87) 162.55Mhz.

The LP2 station will monitor:

NWR (WXL87)	162.55 MHz
CLERS	158.790 MHz
KXO FM or AM	107.5 MHz or 1230 KHz
KFI/AM	640 KHz

1.3 All stations and CATV control points must monitor two of the following:

KXO/AM	
KFI/AM	640 KHz
NWR (WXL87)	162.55 MHz

1.4 Stations unable to reliably receive the LP-1 or LP-1 alternate must monitor the LP2 station and one other assignment from paragraph 1.3 above.

1.5 In addition, but not in lieu of, any other station listed in 1.1 and 1.2 above are recommended monitoring.

COMMUNICATIONS ORDER CA-IMPERIAL NUMBER 2 (COO-2)

EAS EVENT and FIPS CODES

2.1 National Event Codes for events required to be carried by all stations and entities

EAN Emergency Action Notification Message
EAT Emergency Action Termination Message

2.2 Local Event Codes for messages to be carried by all participants in this FCC local Area.

CEM Civil Emergency Message
EVI Evacuation Immediate
FFW Flash Flood Warning
FLW Flood Warning
RMT Required Monthly Test
RWT Required Weekly Test
SVR Severe Thunderstorm Warning
TOR Tornado Warning
CAE Amber Alert

2.3 Local Event Codes for messages that are recommended (voluntary) to be carried:

FFA Flash Flood Watch
FLA Flood Watch
HWA High Wind Watch
HWW High Wind Warning
SVA Severe Thunderstorm Watch
TOA Tornado Watch

2.4 The EAS codes listed below are NOT to be relayed. They are for administrative and test purposes only.

DMO Practice/Demonstration Warning
ADM Administrative Message

2.5 FIPS (location) codes to identify general areas affected are:

06025 Imperial County

Adjoining Counties:

06043 CA - San Diego County
06035 CA - Riverside
04027 AZ - Yuma

COMMUNICATIONS ORDER CA-IMPERIAL NUMBER 5 (COO-5)

REQUIRED MONTHLY TEST

The Coordinated Monthly Test (Event Code RMT) within every Local Area is required to be carried by all broadcast stations and CATV control points. It may be broadcast simultaneously (automatic relay rebroadcast) with the LP1 station, or delayed by no more than 15 minutes. [FCC Part 11.61(a) (1)].

6.1 The Required Monthly Test (RMT) in this FCC Local Area is conducted as follows.

a. Day: 1030 Hours, 1st Wednesday of odd numbered months

January, March, May, July, September, November

b. Night: 2100 Hours, 1st Wednesday of even numbered months

February, April, June, August, October, December

6.2.1 The nighttime Required Monthly Test will originate from the LP1 station on the first Wednesday of each even numbered month (6.1.b above) at 9:10 p.m. local time (LT) (2110 hours) for retransmission by all broadcast stations and CATV control points within the FCC time limit.

6.2.2 The daytime RMT will originate from the LP1 station on the first Wednesday of each odd numbered month (6.1.a above) at 10:40 a.m. LT (1040 hours) for retransmission by all broadcast stations and CATV control points within the FCC time limit.

6.3 Duration of a RMT will be approximately 45 seconds but may vary in length and the content depending on seasonal subject matter.

6.4 The State Emergency Operations Center or an alternate will transmit a monthly test that may be carried by any station in addition to the station's weekly test or in lieu of it's weekly test, but never in place of a Local Area's RMT.

6.4.1 The monthly State EAS test is conducted on the first Tuesday of every month unless otherwise notified. It is transmitted statewide at about 10:20 a.m. and must be rebroadcast within 60 minutes of receipt. It will use the ADM or DMO Event Code --- not an RMT.

COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS ORDER CA-IMPERIAL7(COO-7)

AUTHENTICATION PROCEDURES

7.1 An authenticator code is **not** required for use by those authorized to activate the Emergency Alert System by telephone, FAX or other unsecured transmissions.

7.2 CLERS, NWS, weather wire or hard copy media do **not** require authentication.

SIGNATURES OF CONCURRENCE AND APPROVAL

X _____
Carroll Buckley, Chair
Imperial County Local Area
FCC Local Emergency Communications Committee

_____ Date

X _____

Glenn Montgomery, Co-Chair for Cable Television
Imperial County Local Area
FCC Local Emergency Communications Committee

_____ Date

X _____

Gary Woodall, Meteorologist in Charge
National Weather Service, Phoenix, AZ

_____ Date

X _____

Jim Gabbert, Chairman
State Emergency Communications Committee

_____ Date

X _____

Richard Lee
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

_____ Date