FCC EAS PLAN

FOR

Stanislaus – Tuolumne Counties

Optional monitoring for
Calaveras, Mariposa, Merced and San Joaquin Counties

California

December 11, 1998
Revised 1/14/99
FCC Approved 5/3/99

EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM (EAS) - FCC LOCAL AREA PLAN
Stanislaus - Tuolumne Counties, California

Statement

This plan is a part of the State of California Emergency Alert System Plan. This is the Emergency Alert System (EAS) Plan for the Stanislaus - Tuolumne Counties FCC Local Area. In addition, local conditions allow signal overlap <u>into</u> portions of the adjoining counties of Calaveras, Mariposa, Merced and San Joaquin. Calaveras and San Joaquin Counties are in the Sacramento-Sierra FCC Local area, while the EAS plan for Mariposa and Merced Counties are in the San Joaquin Valley FCC Local Area. It is the intent of this plan to offer alternate and/or optional monitoring assignments for these adjoining counties.

This Plan consists of a cover page, an introduction and Communications Operation Orders. Amendments, when signed by the LECC, SECC and approved by the FCC, are incorporated herein by reference thereto. A chronological and detailed record of revisions and amendments shall be maintained by the LECC.

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 and cable entities. Copies for public information shall not contain "hot-line" numbers or confidential codes.
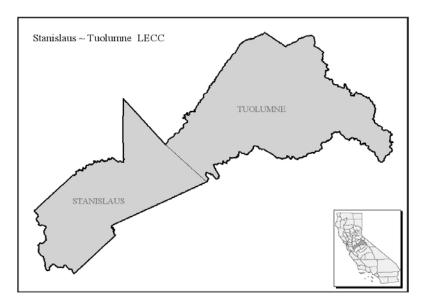
Broadcasters and Cable Stations

The Stanislaus - Tuolumne Counties FCC Local Area includes all broadcasters and cable television companies in and serving Stanislaus - Tuolumne Counties.

FIPS CODE	COUNTY
06099	**Stanislaus**
06109	**Tuolumne**

<u>Adjoining Counties whose broadcasts may serve this area and
into which areas the broadcasts of the entities within this area may overlap</u>:

06077	San Joaquin
06009	Calaveras
06047	Merced
06043	Mariposa

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COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS ORDER CA-ST COO-1

MONITOR PLAN

1.1 The **LP1 station is KOSO   860 KHz - 93.1 MHz.**

<u>The LP1 station will monitor:</u>

a. KGBY (FM)	92.5 MHz	-or-	KFBK	1530 kHz
b. KMJ	580 kHz	-or-	KEFR	89.9 MHz
c. NWS	162.550 MHz	Sacramento		
d. CLERS	154.710 MHz	Mt Diablo	453.875	Telegraph
e. Amateur Repeater	145.390 – pl136.5	DTMF Decoder Starts recorder and alerts operator		
f. NWS (Fresno)	162.400 MHz	Fresno		

1.2 The **LP2 station is KSJN 102.3 MHz**

<u>The LP2 station will monitor:</u>

a. KOSO	93.1 MHz			
b. KGBY (FM)	92.5 MHz	-or-	KFBK	1530 kHz
c. KMJ	580 kHz	-or-	KEFR	89.9 MHz
d. NWS (Sacto)	162.55 MHz	Sacramento		
d. CLERS	154.710 MHz	Mt Diablo		
f. NWS (Fresno)	162.400 MHz	Fresno		

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

a. KOSO	93.1 MHz
b. NWS	162.55 MHz
c. KJSN	102.3 MHz

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

a. CLERS	154.710 MHz
b. KCBS	740 KHz
c. EDIS	450.0375 (AX.25 Packet)

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COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS ORDER CA-ST COO-2

E A S   E V E N T   C O D E S

2.1 National Event Codes for messages <u>required to be carried</u> by all stations and entities

EAN	Emergency Action Notification Message
EAT	Emergency Action Termination Message
NIC	National Information Center Message
NPT	National Periodic Test
RMT	Required Monthly Test
RWT	Required Weekly Test

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

BZW	Blizzard Warning
CEM	Civil Emergency Message
EVI	Evacuation Immediate
FFW	Flash Flood Warning
FLW	Flood Warning
HUW	Hurricane Warning
HWW	High Wind Warning
SVR	Severe Thunderstorm Warning
TOR	Tornado Warning

2.3 Local Event Codes for messages that are optional:

FFA	Flash Flood Watch
FFS	Flash Flood Statement
FLA	Flood Watch
FLS	Flood Statement
HWA	High Wind Watch
SVA	Severe Thunderstorm Watch
SVS	Severe Thunderstorm Statement
TOA	Tornado Watch
WSA	Winter Storm Watch
WSW	Winter Storm Warning

(The separate EDIS (Electronic Digital Information System) messages include National Weather Service (NWS) watches and statements. See COO 5.6)

2.4 EAS administrative and test message codes, as listed below, are **NOT** to be relayed.

DMO	Practice/Demonstration Warning
ADR	Administrative Message

COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS ORDER CA-ST COO-3

<u>NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE</u>

Contains confidential data

3.1 All National Weather Service WARNING messages and EAS ACTIVATION REQUESTED messages will be transmitted over the national weather radio (NWR).

3.2 All stations and CATV Control Points are required to monitor the NWS frequency serving their area of responsibility.

3.3 The NWS transmitter carries three (3) digital headers, the NWS receiver alert tone, the EAS attention alert tones, the audio message, and the three (3) digital End-Of-Message (EOM) transmissions. No verbal message to exceed 115 seconds in length. However, the broadcasters in this Local Area expect them to be confined to 90 seconds or less. (EAS terminals will not record any EAS activation longer than 120 seconds. EAS receiving terminals will not record any activation message from any source that does not receive the EOM inside 120 seconds.)

3.4 In the event the NWR transmitter is off the air, the NWS office shall telephone the

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a. Identify yourself. State the reason you are activating the Emergency Alert System. Be prepared to authenticate in accordance with COO Number 7 where appropriate. The broadcast station shall be prepared to immediately record your message. You may be asked for a level; say "Level level level level level."

b. On receiving the "go-ahead", say: *"5, 4, 3, 2, 1. This is the National Weather Service office in Sacramento. We are activating the Emergency Alert System for a* (nature of the warning, my name is -----, the time is -----, and what, where, why.)"

Read the message. (It must not exceed 115 seconds) (and end it with:) *"This concludes this Emergency Alert System message from the National Weather Service."*

Remain silent until the broadcaster tells you it has been received okay.

The Broadcaster is responsible to interrupt programming, encode and broadcast the alert without delay

COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS ORDER CA-ST COO-4

FOR LP1 AND LP2 STATIONS TO ACTIVATE
EAS AND TRANSMIT A LOCAL BROADCAST

4.1 **From the EAS terminal**.

    a. If the Event Code coincides with one shown on the COO Number 2 you will put it on the air as soon as possible using the prescribed EAS terminal instructions.
    b. You may broadcast any other event Code message at your discretion.

4.2 **From a telephone call**.

    a. You receive a telephone call from a person or agency authorized to initiate the Emergency Alert System. (Authentication procedure - where required - is in COO-7. Radio or teleprinter transmissions from the NWS, another EAS station, local, or state government do not require authentication.)

    b. Start recorder to record message.
    Tell the telephone caller to "countdown and go."
    Caller's out-cue is "This concludes this broadcast from the (Agency) in (location).

    c. Program your EAS terminal with the appropriate FIPS delivery and Event Codes.

    d. Cue up message (if on external recorder) for broadcast.
    Fade out the program in progress and <u>announce</u>:
    "We interrupt this program to activate the Emergency Alert System for the Stanislaus - Tuolumne Counties area. Important instructions will follow."

    e. <u>Activate</u> your EAS terminal.
    <u>Read or play</u> the message.
    Then <u>announce</u>:
    "This concludes the Emergency Alert System bulletin. All broadcast stations and cable systems may now resume normal operations."
    <u>Send EOM</u> *(This step is imperative.)*

    f. <u>Resume </u>normal broadcasting. Do **not** editorialize or comment on the incident as it may be construed as an official announcement. Repeat the highlights of the warning every 5-10 minutes, if possible, during the period of warning.

    g. <u>Log it</u>. Assure the FCC, Washington D.C. is notified in writing in accord with their request to be informed.

4.3 Any broadcast station may activate the EAS and read the message, upon receipt of any "ACTIVATION REQUESTED" bulletin from the National Weather Service without delay or additional notification, authorization or permission.

4.4 All news and program personnel shall be familiar with necessity to place programming on the air with least delay. Periodic training should be conducted. Stations should use automatic EAS mode to insure public safety.

4.5 On-air personnel shall not ad-lib, interpret, abbreviate or alter any test or broadcast. Tests shall not be sung, set to music, include music, echo and/or other electronic alteration or production aids. This shall not preclude an operator from announcing an emergency message verbally in case of an equipment failure.

COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS ORDER CA-ST COO-5

FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO
ACTIVATE THE EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

5.1   Agencies and/or officials, specified in 5.5, are authorized to activate the Emergency Alert System by following these steps:

a. **Write out** (do not dictate) **the WARNING message** to be broadcast by all AM, FM, TV and Cable TV stations in this plan. This is the message **you** will read, as **you** will be the announcer when it is broadcast. (See 5.2 below.)

b. Contact the Stanislaus - Tuolumne Counties Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at (Hot Line) **xxx-xxx-xxxx**

5.2   Authorized officials must use the following format to activate the EAS: **"This is** (Name/Title) of (Organization)(Time)**. I request that the Emergency Alert System be activated for the Stanislaus - Tuolumne Counties Area because of a** (description of the emergency, location and duration.)**"**

5.3   Authorized officials and LP1 or LP2 personnel will determine the transmission details (i.e., live or recorded, immediate or delayed).

5.4   EAS message originators shall limit their messages to 90 seconds.

5.5   The following authorities are authorized to activate the EAS for this Local Area: **Emergency Services Coordinator, Stanislaus - Tuolumne Counties and Police, Fire, Railroad, California Highway Patrol (CHP), Sheriff, County(s) OES Center(s), 911 Centers.**

5.6   The originating official(s) shall enter text of the Warning bulletin into the EDIS system as quickly as possible so that all television and CATV companies will have the message for clear text viewing by the hearing impaired. This may be done before broadcasting the voice message as it takes several minutes to create the clear text.

EDIS is transmitted in this area via 450.03 MHz. EDIS data is used to expand on the EAS information. Some stations supplement EAS messages with the data from EDIS as an adjunct for the hearing impaired and to better serve listeners and viewers since EDIS includes NWS watches and statements. This additional information can be especially important to alternative language stations.

COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS ORDER CA-ST COO-6

<u>REQUIRED MONTHLY TEST</u>

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

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

a. Daytime: First Tuesday 9:50 AM

b. Nighttime: First Tuesday 11:50 P M

6.2.1 The nighttime Required Monthly Test will originate from the LP1, or LP2, or a County OES Center, on the first Tuesday of the month at 11.50 p.m. for retransmission by all broadcast stations and CATV companies within the time limit prescribed by the FCC.

6.2.2 The daytime RMT will originate from the LP1 or LP2 on the first Tuesday of the month at 9:50 a.m. for retransmission by all broadcast stations and CATV companies within the time limit prescribed by the FCC.

6.3   The Required Monthly Test will take about 55 seconds. The message may vary slightly in length and the content will be dependent on the subject chosen for the time of year and prevalent threats or potential hazards.

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 Required Monthly Test.

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 may be rebroadcast.

COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS ORDER CA-ST COO-7

AUTHENTICATION BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

ANY CONFIDENTIAL DATA IS NOT TO BE IN
PUBLIC COPIES OF THIS PLAN

7.0 **Confidential Information**

7.1 **Confidential Information**
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7.2 **Confidential Information**

EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM (EAS) - FCC LOCAL AREA PLAN
Stanislaus - Tuolumne Counties, California
COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS ORDER CA-ST COO-8

FOR STATIONS THAT OPERATE EAS EQUIPMENT IN AUTOMATIC MODE.
AUTOMATIC TESTING OF EAS EQUIPMENT, IN LIEU OF THE RANDOM REQUIRED WEEKLY TEST (RWT),

8.1   This COO provides an exemption to the FCC Rules and Regulations regarding weekly test procedures. Specifically, those stations who operate EAS equipment in the automatic mode will not be required to send an RWT on a once per week random schedule, provided they meet each of the following criteria:

a Two RWT style tests are conducted on the station each and every week: (a) in an automated manner, such as with the use of a timer. (b) done on a fixed schedule. (c). and occur between 11:50 am and 3:00 am on each Monday, and Thursday. (see note 1)

b. The RMT will not exempt the station from the weekly test schedule.

c. Off air verification is required as proof that the test was actually sent over the air. [This could be an operator observation, a tape, an EAS decoder log etc.]

d Station shall have, and maintain, a procedure to alert the appropriate station personnel in the case of a missed weekly test, and or equipment failure.

e. Station must at all times operate in the automatic mode, and the EAS equipment must be programmed to auto forward all of the events listed in the COO 2 herein. (See Note 2)

8.2   This order has three purposes: (1) to encourage the use of automatic forwarding of emergency traffic and therefore provide a more reliable and more immediate warning to the public. (2) to reduce the time interval between equipment failure and detection of the failure, (3) to reduce public (and program directors) annoyance by the test and data packet sounds.

8.3   RWT does not train operators in the use of EAS equipment or procedures since RWTs at most stations are generated with a one button test.

Note 1: This schedule provides for a system check to be made 2 times per week since it has been the experience of station engineers that the EAS equipment has had a number of failures during the short amount of time that it has been in use. The purpose is to catch a system failure as soon as possible. The time of the tests are the least obtrusive times of the day and allows for stations that cease broadcasting at midnight.

Note 2: This COO seeks to encourage the use of automatic forwarding of events that require immediate dissemination to the public to protect life and property. It has been observed that there are stations that do not relay EAS alerts in a timely matter or do not relay them at all due to human error. This can occur where the station is in manual EAS mode and in the hands of minimum wage employees without the requisite skill, despite attempts at training them, to operate the EAS system.

EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM (EAS) - FCC LOCAL AREA PLAN
Stanislaus - Tuolumne Counties, California
SIGNATURES OF CONCURRENCE AND APPROVAL

_____   _____

Brad Johnson, Chair   Date
Stanislaus - Tuolumne Counties Local Area FCC
Local Emergency Communications Committee

_____   _____

Co-Chair for Cable Television   Date
 Stanislaus - Tuolumne Counties Local Area FCC
Local Emergency Communications Committee

_____   _____

Meteorologist in Charge   Date
National Weather Service

_____   _____

Jim Gabbert, Chairman   Date
State Emergency Communications Committee

_____   _____

Federal Communications Commission   Date
Washington, D.C. 20554