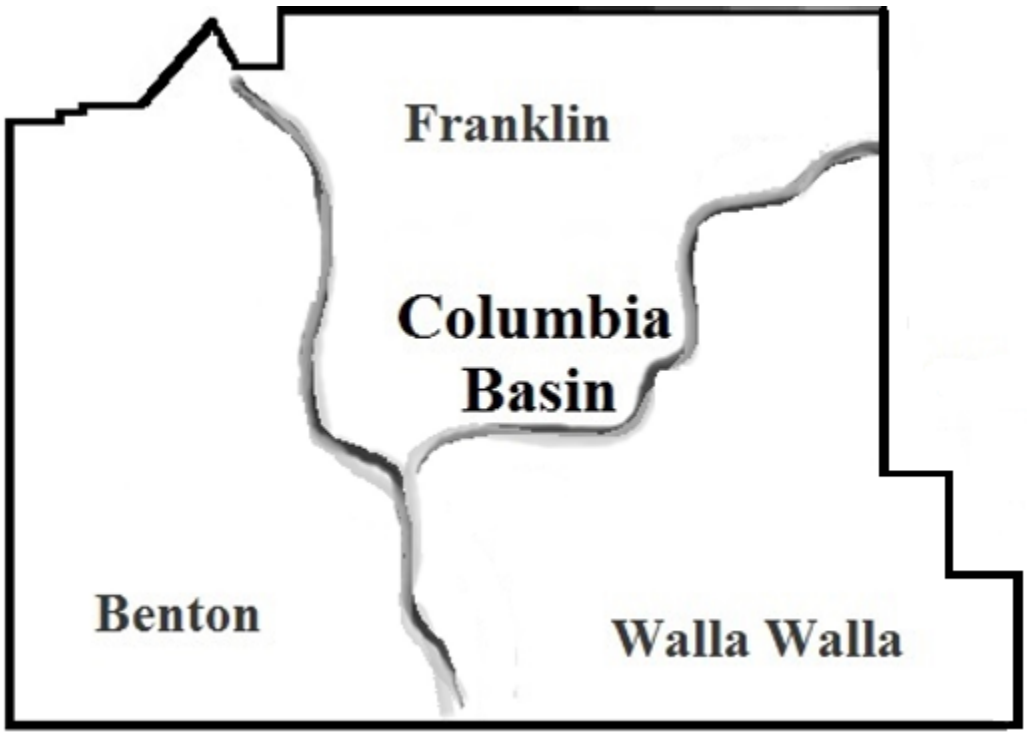
COLUMBIA BASIN OPERATION AREA

Emergency Alert System Plan

(EAS)

INCLUDING

Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla Counties



November 2014

RECORD OF CHANGES

NOTICE TO PLAN HOLDERS: In order to maintain a current Columbia Basin Emergency Alert System (EAS) Plan, changes will occur and be issued periodically. **Please make those changes upon receipt**, and record them on this page. If a previous change number shows no entry, you may not have an up-to-date version of the plan.

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EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

Columbia Basin
LOCAL OPERATIONAL AREA PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION

The Emergency Alert System (EAS) is a national alerting system composed of broadcast networks, cable networks, and program suppliers, AM, FM, and TV broadcast stations, low power television (LPTV) stations, cable systems, and other entities and industries operating on an organized basis during emergencies at the national, state, and local levels. It provides government officials a mechanism to issue emergency warnings to the public through local broadcasters when emergency information may help save lives. It requires that at a minimum, all participants use a common EAS protocol to send and receive emergency alerts.

The Washington State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC) is responsible for administrating the EAS on the state level. The SECC has divided Washington State into several Local Operational Areas. Each Local Area is administrated by a Local Area Emergency Communications Committee (LAECC). The LAECCs are responsible for designing and writing a LOCAL AREA PLAN which will become part of the Washington State EAS Plan.

This is the LOCAL OPERATIONAL AREA PLAN for the Columbia Basin Local Operational Area which includes Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla counties of Washington State. It provides guidelines to local authorities for the distribution of emergency information and warnings to the public. This Local EAS Plan may be activated by authorized officials 24 hours a day in response to time-critical emergencies such as severe weather, floods, civil disorders, earthquakes, hazardous materials accidents, or any other occurrence which poses a danger to life.

2. AUTHORIZATION

This plan is written in accordance with Title 47 U.S.C. 151, 154 (i) and (o), 303 (r), 524 (g) and 606; and 47 C.F.R. Part 11, FCC Rules and Regulations, Emergency Alert System (EAS).

3. THE LAECC

The LAECC for this local operational area is made up of representatives from broadcast radio and television stations, cable systems, county government, and emergency service agencies in Benton, Franklin, and Walla Walla counties. It is a sub-committee of the Washington SECC and is responsible for administering this local area plan. A list of current committee members is located in Appendix 1.

4. THE EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

The EAS is an electronic alerting system capable of providing emergency information from national, state, and local sources to the general public through radio and television broadcast stations and subject cable systems. EAS protocol allows the encoding of emergency messages

using standard codes for various types of emergencies. It also allows messages to be tailored to specific geographic areas so information can be delivered quickly to those areas which are affected by an emergency. Basic information regarding local emergencies is encoded into digital data, sent to local broadcast stations and cable systems via a LOCAL RELAY NETWORK (LRN), and forwarded to the public by those facilities. A voice message may also be included as part of the emergency message.

The FCC requires broadcasters and subject cable operators to have EAS encode/decode devices at their facilities to receive and forward national EAS messages and required weekly and monthly tests. These same devices may be used, at the broadcasters or cable operators discretion, for local emergencies. Local emergency management entities may purchase the necessary equipment to send EAS information via the LRN to local broadcast and cable facilities for transmission to the general public. All local EAS activity is subject to the authority of the LAECC and the guidelines presented in this local area plan.

The EAS is designed to work without the need for personal contact with anyone at broadcast stations or cable facilities. Activating entities issuing emergency messages should assume that no one is at the broadcast or cable facilities and must formulate and transmit complete emergency messages. Broadcasters and cable operators will simply forward the local emergency information they receive (if they choose to participate at the local level).

5. POLICY

It is the policy of all participating agencies to activate the EAS in order to alert and warn residents of emergencies that threaten lives. The EAS will be utilized only when time limitations or incident severity prohibit information distribution to the media through normal channels.

Further instructions to, and information for the public will be disseminated to the news media by the originating agency or by the affected jurisdictions, using normal channels.

6. SITUATION

There will be times when it is critical to warn the public and local officials of threatening or occurring emergencies or disasters. There is no single method of warning available, so a combination of warning methods must be utilized. The EAS is one method used in cooperation with local broadcasters and cable providers.

Examples of incidents that may require warning and use of the EAS include: Earthquake, volcano, severe weather, flood, and hazardous materials release. There are other natural and technological incidents that are addressed in local and state Hazard Identification and Vulnerability Analysis documents that may warrant the use of EAS.

7. CAUTION STATEMENT

The EAS can be a very powerful tool for emergency management organizations, allowing them to notify the general public of impending or occurring emergency situations in a quick and precise manner. The SECC realized that such a powerful tool may present a hardship to broadcast stations and cable systems if it is not used prudently and properly and included the following warning to activating entities in the State EAS Plan:

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL NOTE

A WORD OF CAUTION: The Emergency Management/Services community has acquired a valuable tool in gaining direct access to all area broadcasters and subject cable operators via the EAS. However, **if not used prudently, you put yourself in danger of losing this tool. Broadcasters and cable operators are expecting the EAS to be used only for very serious emergencies**. Keep in mind two things. First, some broadcasters and cable operators have their EAS decoders set on Automatic Mode. There is no one there to screen your message and decide if it should be aired. They are depending on you to send an EAS Alert **only for a very serious emergency**. The first time you trigger the system for a frivolous event, you will **lose** the confidence of your area broadcasters and cable operators. The second thing is broadcasters and cable operators participate in the local-level EAS on a voluntary basis. No one can force them to carry your EAS Alerts. Maintain a good relationship with your local broadcasters and cable operators.

(Washington State EAS Plan, Section 1, page 1, and Section 10, page 14)

8. EAS DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply to EAS terms which have been used in the development of this local area plan. For a more comprehensive list of EAS terms, see the Washington State EAS Plan, FCC Rules and Regulations, Part 11, FEMA Publication CPG 1-40, or other EAS-related publications.

TERM	DESCRIPTION
Activation	The initiation of the EAS by transmission of an EAS message or codes.
Activating Entity	An Emergency Management partner entity that activates the local EAS.
AMBER	**A**merica's **M**issing: **B**roadcast **E**mergency **R**esponse.
Attention Signal	Eight to twenty-five seconds of two tones (835 Hz and 960 Hz) used as an audio alert.
CMAS	The **Commercial Mobile Alert System (CMAS)**, also known as **Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)**, is an alerting network in the United States designed to disseminate emergency alerts to mobile devices such as cell phones and pagers.
CIV	Originator code for civil authorities for EAS activation.
DEM	Division of Emergency Management, Lewis County Sheriff's Office
EAN	Emergency Action Notification. National-level EAS alert.
EAN Network	The interconnection of the federal government with national networks and program suppliers used to disseminate the EAN message.
EAS	Emergency Alert System.
EAS Alert	EAS activation in an actual emergency.
EAS Decoder	A device, which monitors sources and decodes incoming EAS messages. A decoder accepts digital bursts and translates them into an audio and/or printed message.
EAS Encoder	A device used by EAS participants to originate EAS alerts by creating the EAS codes for transmission to other participants and the public. The encoder generates messages that may be preset for quick release to other participants and the public.
EAS Test	EAS activation for testing purposes.
Emergency Alert System (EAS)	The national alerting system composed of broadcast networks; cable networks and program suppliers; AM, FM, and TV broadcast stations; low power televisions (LPTV) stations; cable systems; and other entities and industries operating in an organized basis during emergencies at the national, state, or local levels. It requires that at a minimum all participants use a common EAS protocol, as defined in FCC Rules Part 11.31, to send and receive emergency alerts.
End of Message Code	ASCII data string that signifies the end of an EAS message.
Event Code	A three-character ASCII code in the EAS header that denotes the type of event for which an EAS test or alert is issued.
FCC	Federal Communications Commission. One of three federal agencies that participate in EAS.

TERM	DESCRIPTION
FIPS Codes	Federal Information Processing System number assigned to states and counties defining geographic areas.
Header Codes	A single string of intelligent ASCII data that includes the originator, event, location, time period, and other basic information concerning an EAS test or alert.
IPAWS	The **Integrated Public Alert and Warning System** is a planned modernization and integration of the United States emergency population warning systems.
L-Code	The portion of the EAS header code which describes the targeted geographic area for the EAS message.
LAECC	Local Area Emergency Communications Committee.
Local Area Plan	The plan developed by a committee in each local operational area that outlines the EAS system and procedures for that particular area. The local area plan for the appropriate operational area is included in the state plan.
Local Area Emergency Communications Committee	**(LAECC)** A committee made up of representatives from broadcast radio and television stations, cable systems, county/city government and emergency management. It is a subcommittee of the Washington State Emergency Communications Committee and is responsible for approving and administering the plan.
Local Operational Area	An operational subdivision of the state.
Location Code	A six-digit ASCII code in the EAS header that specifies the location of an emergency utilizing the five character FIPS code of a state and county, and a sixth character to designate one of nine divisions of a county.
LP	Local Primary. One or more broadcast stations in each local area has been designated as a local primary station. The LP is the primary source of EAS programming for the local area. A local area may have more than one LP, in which case the stations are designated LP- 1, LP-2, etc.
LPTV	Low-power television station.
LRN	Local Relay Network. A radio or other communications system used to distribute sources of local operational area EAS information to broadcast stations and cable systems in the local area.
National Alert	EAS alert of national origin.
NN	Non-participating National. Broadcasters which elect not to participate in national level EAS. These stations must sign off the air during national alerts, but may elect to participate in local EAS.
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. One of three federal agencies that participate in EAS.
NOAA Weather Radio	(NWR) A service of the National Weather Service that provides continuous broadcasts of the latest weather information and any weather-related emergency warnings to a local area. NWR uses seven VHF radio frequencies.
Nuclear Plant / Industrial Plant	Nuclear and other industrial plants with a potential for dangerous conditions may have their own specific EAS plans which must

TERM	DESCRIPTION
	conform to EAS standards and be approved by the LAECC.
NWR	NOAA Weather Radio.
NWS	National Weather Service. NWS is an operation of NOAA that is directly responsible for issuing local weather-related emergency alerts and warnings in addition to day-to-day forecasts and other weather activities.
Originator	The entity that originates an EAS alert.
Originator Code	A three-character ASCII code in the EAS header that identifies the entity that originates an EAS test or alert.
PEP	Primary Entry Point. A broadcast station which can serve as an entry point for national EAS information in the event that the primary national alerting methods are inoperable.
PN	Participating National. Broadcast stations and cable systems that deliver all levels of EAS to the general public, including local information.
Protocol	A standard set of guidelines by which digital information is encoded and decoded, including the common code structure, the character set used, the sequence and timing of codes, and modulation technique used for radio transmission.
RMT	Required Monthly Test. A coordinated monthly test of EAS operations involving the full receiving and transmission of EAS codes, attention signal, EAS test programming, and EAS end-of- message codes.
RWT	Required Weekly Test. An independent weekly test of EAS equipment only involving the decoding and encoding of EAS header codes and end-of-message codes.
SECC	State Emergency Communications Committee.
SRN	State Relay Network. A system of facilities used to distribute state EAS activations and programming across the state.
State EAS Plan	A document that outlines the organization and implementation of EAS in Washington State. It includes monitoring assignments, actions to be taken in emergency activations, and other guidelines for broadcasters and cable personnel in use of the EAS in Washington State.
State Emergency Communications Committee (Washington)	**(SECC)** The state committee who administers the EAS plan at the state level.
Time-Duration Code	A four-digit ASCII code in the EAS header that defines how long the EAS activation is valid.
WEA	**Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)**, is an alerting network in the United States designed to disseminate emergency alerts to mobile devices such as cell phones and pagers.

9. THE EAS WEB

One of the keys to the success of the EAS is its web architecture. Web architecture refers to the network that is formed when the broadcast stations and cable systems monitor multiple sources for EAS information. The SECC has the responsibility of developing and maintaining monitoring assignments for each broadcast station and cable system in such a way as to build an efficient monitoring web. A current list of the broadcast and cable facilities in this local area and their EAS designations can be found in Appendix 2. Monitoring assignments for these facilities are located in the State EAS Plan.

10. LOCAL RELAY NETWORK

The LAECC has developed a Local Relay Network (LRN) which is one of the sources monitored in the EAS web. Local emergency management entities input local EAS information into the LRN and broadcast and cable facilities receive that information either directly from the LRN or via another source which monitors the LRN and passes the information along (most often the LP station).

It is the responsibility of the activating entities to obtain a transmitter and receiver (or transceiver) and related equipment to activate and monitor the LRN repeater, an EAS encode/decode device to generate and monitor EAS information, and any other necessary equipment (computer terminal, software, microphone, etc.). The LAECC is not responsible for providing the necessary equipment.

The location of an EAS encoder must meet the following criteria:

- Secure against unauthorized access
- Staffed 24 hours/day
- Auxiliary power available
- Direct communications with emergency service agencies and officials
- Able to access the LRN repeater

11. AUTHENTICATION

Each entity which operates an EAS encoder shall be responsible for use of the encoder at all times. A method of authentication and identification of personnel and information should be developed by each entity to ensure that access to the encoder is limited to those people who are authorized to activate the system. This information shall be submitted to the LAECC and included in Appendix 5 of this local plan.

It is imperative that all EAS information input into the LRN be accurate. Broadcasters and cable operators will assume that the information is authorized and valid as received. Some facilities may be operating in automatic mode in which case the EAS information will be immediately broadcast with absolutely no human intervention. No authentication will take place at the broadcast or cable facilities; the information must be correct when it leaves the origination point.

12. EAS PROTOCOL

The EAS uses a specific protocol described in detail in the FCC Rules and Regulations and in

the State EAS plan. EAS encode/decode devices allow operators to input information in plain English, then automatically convert that information into digital data and output it as an audio signal, just like a computer modem. The encoder formats the information to match the EAS protocol.

EAS activations (tests or alerts) will consist of up to four elements:

- A header code
- An attention signal
- An aural message
- An end of message code

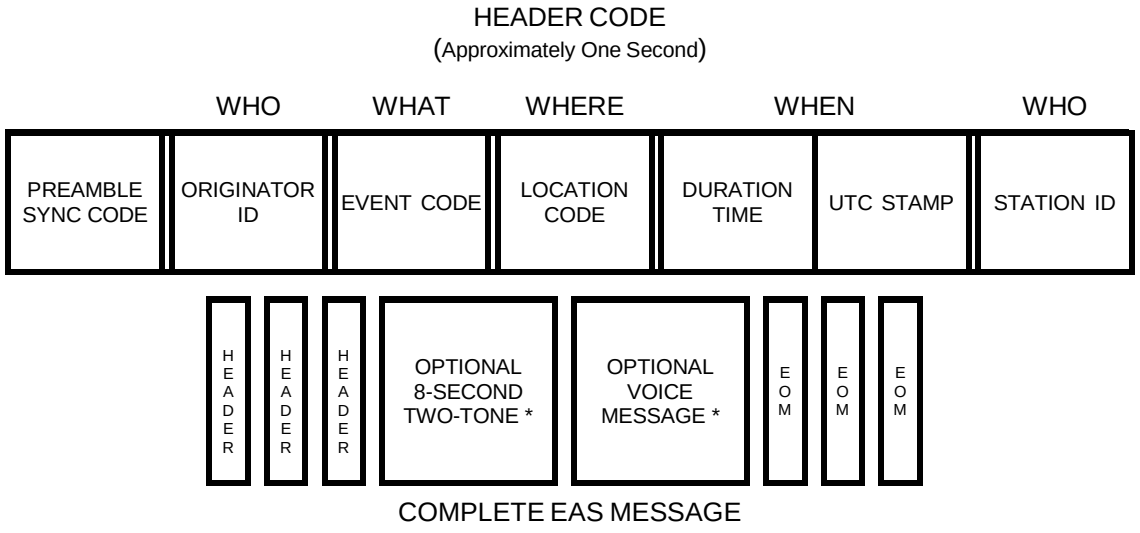
All EAS activations will include a header code data burst. The header code will be sent three times, with a one-second pause after each transmission, to ensure proper reception by EAS decoders. The header code contains the basic EAS message in digital form.

Following the header code, a two-tone attention signal may be used to alert listeners and viewers that an EAS activation has occurred and that a voice message will follow. The attention signal should be used if, and only if, a voice message will be included as part of the alert.

A voice message will follow the attention signal. Use of the two-tone attention signal and a voice message will be determined by the originator of the alert; they are not required, but if one is used the other must accompany it. The voice message should give a concise description of the emergency and may give additional information not included in the header codes. See section 14 on page 12 for guidance on the formulation of voice messages.

All EAS activations will conclude with an end-of-message code data burst. The end-of-message code will be sent three times, with a one-second pause after each transmission, to ensure proper reception by EAS decoders.

The following diagram shows the relationship of the four EAS elements and also shows the information included in the header codes:



*See the text regarding the use of the two-tone attention signal and the aural message.

13. INITIAL SETUP OF EAS ENCODE/DECODE DEVICES

When an EAS encode/decode device is first installed it will be necessary to enter certain information (such as what organization operates the unit, where it's located, the date and time, etc.) into the software. Three pieces of information warrant an explanation in this local plan:

The ORIGINATOR CODE describes the type of entity originating EAS activation. The only originator codes are:

EAN - Emergency Action Notification Network
PEP - Primary Entry Point System
NWS - National Weather Service
CIV - Civil authorities
EAS - Broadcast station or cable system

An L-CODE identifies the broadcaster, cable operator, Weather Service office, civil authority, or nuclear/industrial plant which operated the encoder that transmitted or retransmitted an activation.

L-Code identification must adhere to the following formats:

Broadcasters:

Use station call letters as the L-Code identifier.

Examples: Single station: KXXX (FM)
Two stations: KXXXKYYY
Three or more stations: The call letters of one of the stations is sufficient. The other stations sending the alert should keep a log of alerts sent as should the station which was identified in the L-Code portion of the header.

Cable Television:

Refer to the State EAS Plan, TAB 19 for instructions for cable systems.

Civil Authorities:

L-Codes for civil authorities will be constructed in the following manner:

Portion of the code	Source of characters
First four characters	First four letters of the name of jurisdiction (Name of county, city, etc.)
Next two characters	Abbreviation of the type of jurisdiction: CO = County CY = City TN = Town VL = Village TP = Township MY = Municipality
Last two characters	Abbreviation of the type of agency: SH = Sheriff FD = Fire Department PD = Police Department TA = Traffic Authority ES = Emergency Services EG = Emergency Government EM = Emergency Management

Examples: BCEM
CCEM
FCEM
WWEM

Military Groups:

Military groups should use the following as L-Code identifiers:

Army ---------- U.S. ARMY
Navy ---------- U.S. NAVY
Air Force ---------- AIRFORCE
Marine Corps --- U.S.M.C.
Coast Guard ----- U.S.C.G.

Industry:

Refer to the State EAS Plan, TABS 18 and 19 for instructions regarding Industry.

Consult the operator manual for the proper information and procedures for setting up specific EAS encode/decode devices.

14. PROGRAMMING AN EAS EVENT

The EAS encoder will require three basic pieces of information from the alert originator when being programmed for an EAS alert:

- The type of event (event code)
- The locations affected by the event (FIPS code)
- The duration of the event

Event Code

An EVENT CODE defines what type of alert is being issued. Each type of emergency requires a unique event code. The FCC has defined numerous event codes for use in the EAS. A list of valid event codes is included in Appendix 6. It is possible to add new event codes by making a request to the LAECC for a new code. If the LAECC agrees with the need for the code it will pass the request on to the SECC. If the SECC agrees with the need for the code it will pass the request on to the FCC for approval. Only those event codes approved by the FCC may be used.

Location Code

A LOCATION CODE defines the geographic area affected by the emergency. EAS location codes are based on the Federal Information Processing System (FIPS) codes. In this system, each state has been assigned a two-digit number and each county in each state has been assigned a three-digit number. The combination of the state number and the county number gives each county in the entire country a unique five-digit identification number (SSCCC). The EAS precedes this five-digit number with an additional one-digit number to break down each county into nine different areas so that a portion of a county in any state can be defined using a single six-digit number (PSSCCC).

The boundaries of the smaller county portions described by the “P” portion of the EAS location code are determined by the LAECC in close cooperation with county government officials and local emergency management officials. Maps and descriptions of the county subdivisions are included in Appendix 7.

Location Code Examples

The FIPS code for Washington State is 053000**.** Benton County is 53005. Franklin County is 53021**.** Walla Walla County is 53071. Here are some examples of EAS location codes for this local operational area:

EAS LOCATION CODE		AREA DESCRIBED
053**005**	=	Entire **Benton County**
353**005**	=	Section 3 of **Benton County**
053**021**	=	Entire **Franklin County**
553**021**	=	Section 5 of **Franklin County**
053**071**	=	Entire **Walla Walla County**
153**071**	=	Section 1 of **Walla Walla Co.**

Event Duration Code

An EVENT DURATION CODE defines how long an alert is expected to be in effect. The duration must be determined by the originator when the alert is issued. Valid durations can be entered in 15-minute segments up to one hour and then in 30-minute segments beyond one hour. For example:

0015 = 15 minutes
0030 = 30 minutes
0045 = 45 minutes
0100 = 1 hour
0230 = 2 hours 30 minutes
0400 = 4 hours

Programming Note

The method used to enter the required information into the EAS encoder will vary according to the type of encoder and related equipment being used. In most cases the device will use plain English and will be very straight-forward. Consult the operator manual for instructions specific to the encoder being used.

15. LOCAL EAS ACTIVATION PROCEDURE

In the event of an emergency an authorized individual should contact an activating entity and request that an EAS alert be issued. Proper identification and authentication procedures should be followed (see section 9 on page 7, and Appendix 5) to ensure that the person requesting the activation is authorized to do so. Preparation and transmission by the activating entity should include the following steps:

1. Authenticate the emergency.
2. Determine whether a voice message is needed.
3. Assure that the encoder is programmed with the correct Event Code, Location Code, and Time Duration.
4. Check the voice message, if one is required, for clarity and accuracy.
5. Ensure the LRN channel is clear to send the EAS message.
6. Send the message.
7. Verify that the message was sent correctly.

Request for Activation

When the incident commander or highest ranking official at the scene of an incident determines that an EAS message must be initiated to preserve lives, he or she will contact the authorized individual from that jurisdiction who has authority to request activation of EAS. That person will contact his or her local EAS authorized agency. If the local EAS activation authority or its alternate (if designated in local plans) cannot be contacted, EAS activation may be requested through Washington State Emergency Management.

It is the responsibility of the agency initiating the EAS message to confirm the incident with a reliable source (dispatch center or incident commander). Many broadcast stations will automatically air all EAS messages and have no mechanism to confirm or edit information. It is critical that the agency sending the alert authenticate the information prior to transmission to broadcasters.

16. THE VOICE MESSAGE

A voice message is not required when originating an EAS alert, but is highly recommended since radio cannot present EAS information visually and listeners cannot decipher the information contained in the EAS header codes. A voice message must be less than two minutes in length. The FCC rules state that decoders must be capable of recording at least two minutes of audio or test messages. Most decoders are not capable of recording more than two minutes of audio. The more concise and precise the voice message, the better it is.

The Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) has provided guidelines for voice messages in their publication CPG 1-41, Emergency Alert System: A Program Guide for State and Local Jurisdictions. Refer to that document for detailed information regarding the formulation of voice messages.

Notification of Affected Agencies

Notification of affected jurisdictions and government officials will normally occur simultaneously with transmission of the EAS message whenever possible. There will be times when warning the public is time-critical and the EAS message will be sent before other notifications are made. In addition to affected jurisdictions, notification includes Washington State Emergency Management. A request will be made for Washington State Emergency Management to notify other counties of the activation of EAS. The method of notification may include, but is not limited to, telephones, radios, computers, ACCESS, and NAWAS.

The activation of EAS for any purpose will generate calls from the public, government officials

and the news media. Whenever possible, affected jurisdictions should be contacted at the same time the EAS message is being generated.

17. TRAINING FOR EAS PARTICIPANTS

It is the responsibility of the managers of broadcast stations, cable systems, and activating entities to assure that all pertinent personnel in their organizations are properly trained to operate all relevant aspects of the EAS system that applies to their situation.

Training of all operators is critical to the success of the EAS. Each agency must establish procedures and a training plan that includes detailed instruction, hands-on use of the ENDEC and two way radio, and continuing spot-testing of operators.

Training should also include complete familiarity with event codes and their application to various emergencies and the FEMA guidelines for preparing voice messages. This training is also useful in understanding alerts originated by other agencies and relayed via the repeater(s).

18. TESTING

Testing is an important aspect of the EAS. Testing will ensure that the system is operational and will help to pinpoint and correct hardware, software and operational problems.

Required Monthly Tests/Required Weekly Tests

FCC rules specify that broadcasters and cable systems must run a Required Monthly Test once each month, and that during the weeks when an RMT does not run, a Required Weekly Test (RWT) must run. (There are some exceptions to this which are detailed in the FCC Rules and Regulations, Part 11.61(a)(6).) The RWT is originated at each broadcast/cable facility and is scheduled randomly by that facility. The RMT is a coordinated test that contains all the elements of an actual EAS alert (header codes, two-tone alert, voice message, end-of-message codes). It originates from different locations each month based on guidelines established by the SECC and runs on dates and at times determined by the EAS Test Coordinator under the guidance of the SECC.

The following procedures were adopted on March 11, 2009 by the SECC for dealing with failures in the initiation or distribution of RMTs.

1. When it's clear that an RMT failed or was sent as a DMO or RWT, the originating agency will not attempt to resend unless the problem is obvious, can be corrected quickly, and the RMT can be resent no later than 10 minutes after the scheduled time. If the RMT was mistakenly sent as an actual Alert, the agency will NOT attempt to send another RMT.

2. Investigation and documentation of a failed RMT is the responsibility of the LECC Chair, unless he or she is unavailable or otherwise unable to carry out those duties. In the latter case, the incident becomes the responsibility of the SECC Chair, who may delegate duties relevant to the event.

3. The person investigating an RMT failure will post a brief notice on the Washington State EAS Remailer as soon as possible after the event and will post an explanation suitable

for broadcaster logging once the cause of the problem has been determined. He or she will not post speculative information.

Notes to RMT Schedule

* In April, EAS will be part of the Earthquake preparedness drill. Since that will occur in the daytime, March has been switched to a nighttime test. The preparedness drill will occur between 9:45 and 10:00 AM (date and time are determined by the State).

*Nighttime tests must run between local sunset and 8:30 AM. Nighttime tests are no longer scheduled in the middle of the night so people with weather radios will not be disturbed by their radios being activated by an RMT. The schedule deviates from the Originator Schedule in the State EAS Plan so that local areas are not responsible for all nighttime tests. The State DEM will not activate in the middle of the night in consideration of the participants in the REP program. The NWS will not activate in the middle of the night in consideration of those people who are alerted by the tone alert system.

**In May, the RMT will include Pierce County's annual Lahar test (1st Tuesday of the month; 10 AM Central Puget Sound area).

***The September test will run as part of the NWS tsunami communications drill for Alaska and the West Coast; and the State's Drop, Cover and Hold earthquake drill (date and time determined by NWS and State EMD). It is also "Weather Radio Awareness Month," so NWS will originate the monthly RMT.

****The October test coincides with a FEMA-required activation of Bi-Annual Siren test in Franklin and Benton Counties.

*****Exact times are shown. This will help traffic, programming, and operations departments prepare for the incoming test.

******The April, May and September tests deviate from the standard test pattern (day/night, first full week of the month) due to scheduling of the earthquake preparedness drill in April, the lahar drill in May and the tsunami drill in September

*******Broadcast stations and cable systems have 1 hour to forward an RMT after receiving it.

- **Test Schedules may be modified by the SECC. See Appendix 8 for current test schedule.**

In those months when the RMT is scheduled to originate from the Local Operational Areas via the LRN, it will be originated by one of the activating entities in this local area. The LAECC will assign activating entities to originate the RMT during the months when the test will be originated in the local operational area. The schedule is located in Appendix 7.

Note that the days and times of the RMTs are determined by the SECC. The LAECC simply determines which entity will originate the RMT during the months it is to be originated locally.

If an activating entity is unable to perform the RMT, the LAECC should be notified and coordinate with another activating entity or the LP station to run the test as scheduled. When sending an RMT, the following settings should be used:

Event code:	RMT
Location code(s):	[ONLY counties in the local operational area!]
Duration:	30 minutes

The voice message will consist of the following script:

a) **This is a test of the Emergency Alert System. In the event of an emergency, this system would bring you important information. This test is now concluded.**

The RMT script can be read in nine to ten seconds. All other elements of the RMT (the header codes, attention signal and end of message codes) take from 19 to 21 seconds to complete, depending on the number of location codes contained in the header. The goal of writing this short test script was to fit the entire test into a 30 second time period.

Originators should make every attempt to complete this test within 30 seconds. Pre-recording the script at the length needed to achieve this is highly recommended. Tests will be initiated no earlier than 10 minutes prior to scheduled time and no later than 10 minutes after the designated/scheduled time.

NOTE: A DMO (practice test) may be sent at any time an RMT or actual Alert is not being transmitted or is about to be transmitted. Use of DMOs is encouraged as a training tool for personnel at originating agencies.

LRN TESTS

The LRN will be tested periodically to ensure it remains functional. The LAECC will assign an activating entity to issue one test each week using the RWT event code (RWTs are not forwarded automatically; the air product of broadcast stations and cable systems will not be affected). A representative of the LP station shall periodically check the station log to confirm receipt of the LRN weekly tests and will notify the LAECC if tests are not received successfully.

19. LOCAL AUTHORIZATION

This plan shall be in force and operational when signed by the appropriate county government officials, county emergency management directors, the chairperson of the LAECC, and the chairperson of the SECC. Authorization shall continue until a formal request to terminate participation in the plan is submitted to the LAECC.

20. LAECC MEETINGS

The LAECC will meet a minimum of once a year to review this local plan and its effectiveness and to make sure all participants are satisfied with their participation. LAECC meetings are open to all interested parties and are not restricted to committee members. For the date, time,

and location of the next LAECC meeting contact the LAECC chairperson.

21. CHANGES TO THE PLAN

Changes to this plan may be suggested at any time and will be considered at the regular meeting of the LAECC unless circumstances require a special meeting at an earlier date, or unless consensus can be achieved through electronic means (e.g., e-mail). All proposed changes must be submitted in writing to the LAECC chairperson. Following approval by the LAECC, all changes must be submitted to the SECC for final approval.

22. REFERENCES

Title 47 U.S.C. 151, 154 (i) & (o), 303 ®, 524 (g) & 606; and 47 C.F.R. Part 11, FCC Rules & Regulations, Emergency Alert System. Washington State EAS Plan

APPROVAL

The _____County Board of Commissioners approve the Columbia Basin Operational Area Emergency Alert System Plan dated November 2014. It is understood that this plan is coordinated and approved by the commissioners of Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla counties and managed by their respective emergency management agencies/departments and there will be three signatures pages (one for each counties approval/adoption).

_____, Chairman _____

(DATE)

_____, Board of Commissioners

County

_____, Manager/Director _____

(DATE)

_____, County Emergency Management

County

APPENDIX 1

LOCAL OPERATIONAL AREA
Membership List

Columbia Basin Emergency Communications Committee

LOCAL AREA NAME & LECC CHAIR	E-MAIL ADDRESS	OFFICE PHONE
Franklin County Emergency Management Sean Davis	sdavis@co.franklin.wa.us	509-546-5846
Benton County Emergency Management Deanna Davis	d.davis@bces.wa.gov	509-628-8092
Walla Walla Emergency Management Liz Jessee	ljessee@co.walla-walla.wa.us	509-524-2900
Engineers and Station Managers (from stations listed in Appendix 2)		
National Weather Service (Pendleton, OR)	w-pdt.webmaster.noaa.gov	541-276-7832
Society of Broadcast Engineers, Chapter 51, Tri-Cities, Wa. (SBE)	Chapter51@sbe51.org	

APPENDIX 2

COLUMBIA BASIN OPERATIONAL AREA

Broadcast Stations and Participating Cable Systems

WASHINGTON STATE EAS MONITORING ASSIGNMENTS FOR–COLUMBIA BASIN

CAN BE FOUND IN THE WASHINGTON STATE EAS PLAN AT:

http://www.emd.wa.gov/telcom/telecom_eas_plan.shtml

Specific Instructions for Cable Systems

FCC rules require that all wired cable systems that serve 10,000 or more subscribers install EAS equipment and provide EAS audio and video messages on all channels by December 31, 1998.

Wired cable systems with between 5,000 and 9,999 subscribers must meet this same requirement by October 1, 2002.

Wired cable systems with fewer than 5,000 subscribers are to either provide national level EAS message on all programmed channels (including the required testing), or to install EAS equipment and provide a video interrupt and audio alert on all programmed channels and EAS audio and video messages on at least one programmed channel by October 1, 2002.

Current copies of the following documents must be located in all cable system headends that have operational EAS installations:

1) CFR 47 Part 11 - FCC Rules on Emergency Alert Systems (These can be downloaded from the FCC's web site, or purchased from a government book store)

2) EAS Cable Handbook (This can be downloaded from the FCC's web site).

3) State EAS Plan (This can be obtained from the Washington State Emergency Communications Committee - WSECC).

4) Local Area EAS Plan - If not incorporated into State Plan (This can be obtained from the WSECC, or your Local Area Emergency Communications Committee - LAECC - See tabs 1 & 2).

Satellite radio/television (such as Direct TV or Dish Network) will not receive local EAS messages. The only media that broadcast local EAS messages are local outlets. Only in the case of a national EAS activation would satellite radio or television broadcast EAS statements.

All EAS control personnel are required to know EAS responsibilities, for their respective cable system, as outlined in each of the listed documents.

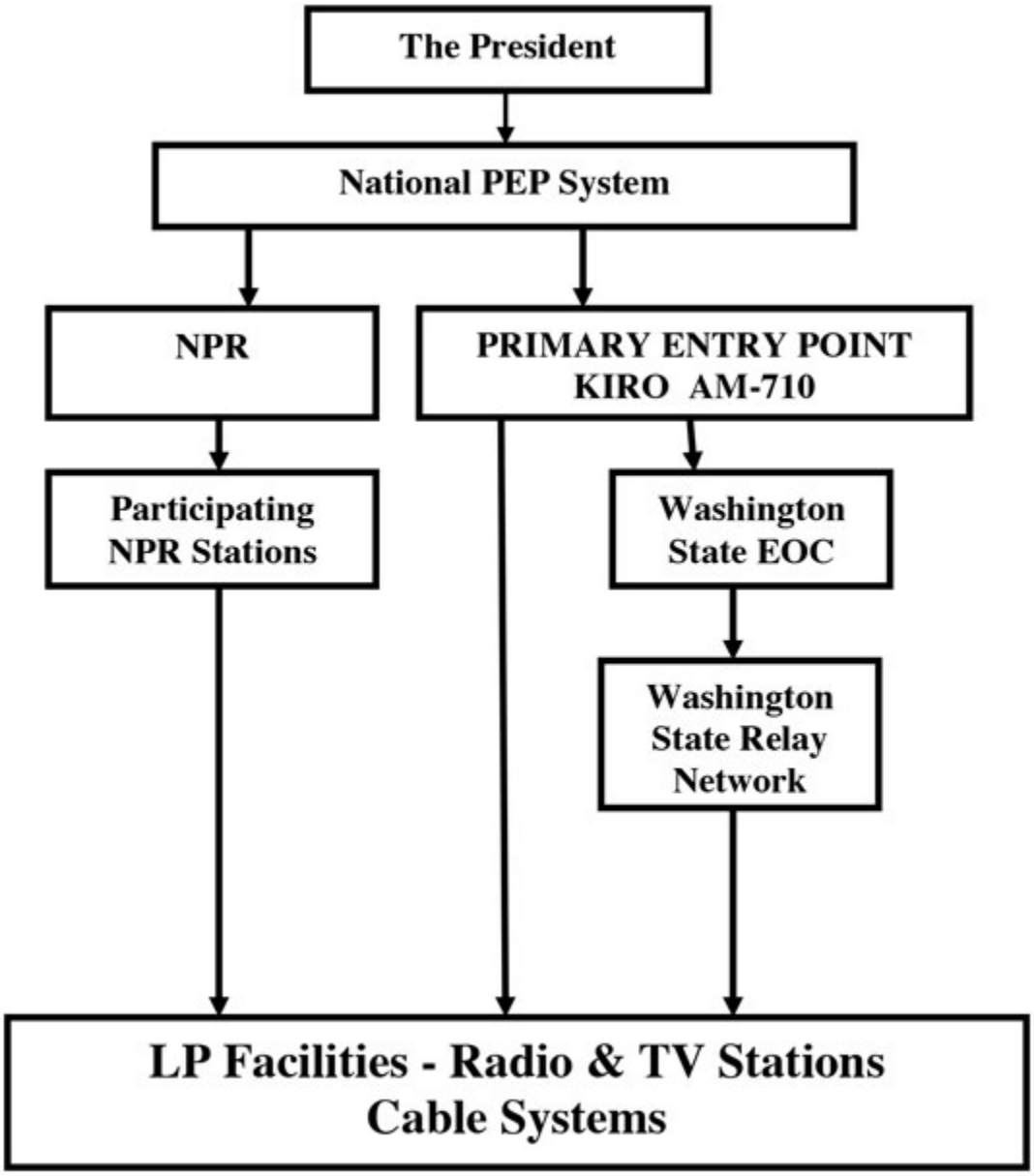
Schedules for Required Monthly Tests, along with information on who will originate each test, are established in the Fall of each year for the upcoming calendar year. Cable industry preferences for RMT schedule times should be submitted to the WSECC as early as possible each year, which will be considered in concert with Broadcast preferences in setting the upcoming year's scheduled. RMT schedules can be obtained from the WSECC.

APPENDIX 3

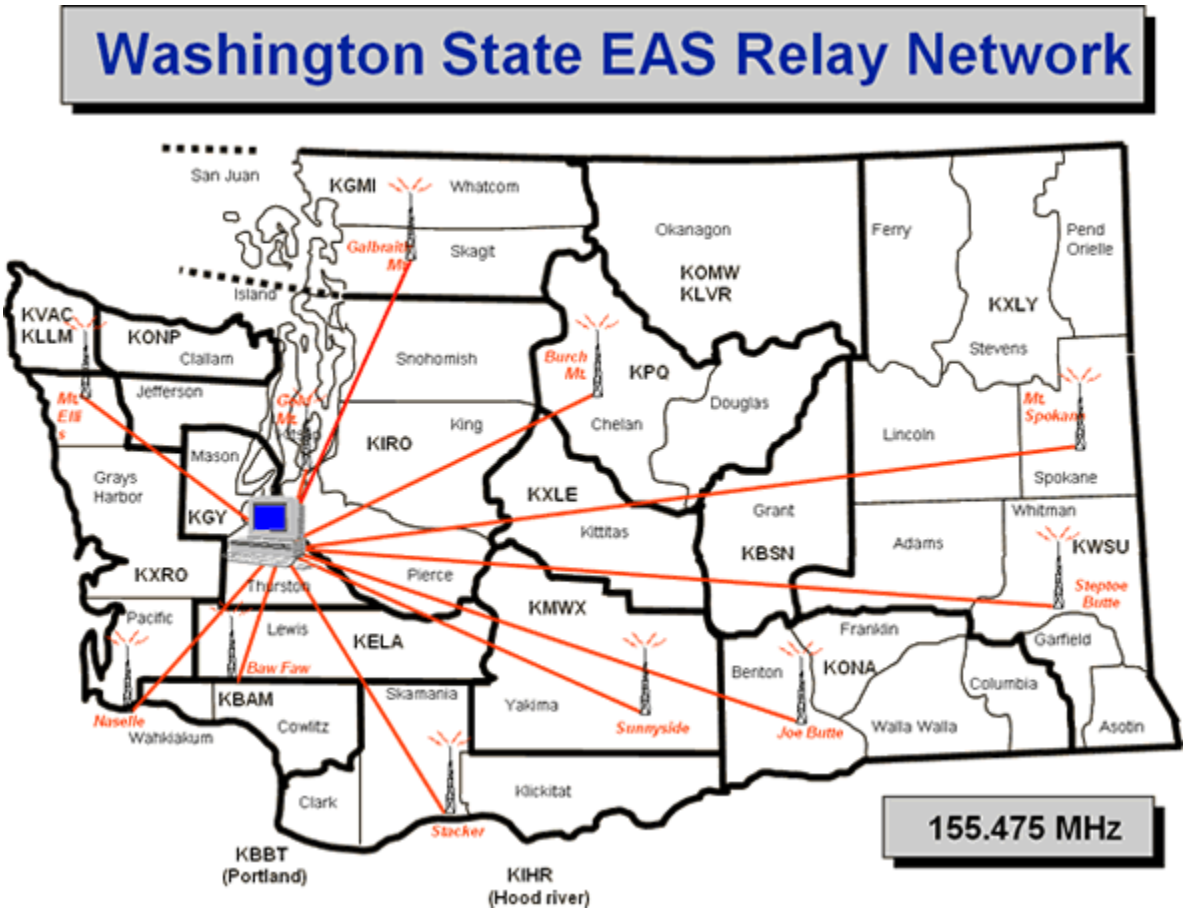
COLUMBIA BASIN OPERATIONAL AREA

NATIONAL, STATE, AND LOCAL RELAY NETWORK DIAGRAM

NATIONAL



STATE



LOCAL

AREA NAMES	COUNTIES	LP STATIONS	SRN SITE	NOAA SITE & FREQ	LRN FREQ	EAN SOURCE	MYSTATEUSA
COLUMBIA BASIN	BENTON FRANKLIN WALLA-WALLA	1A – KONA – 610 1B– KONA– 105.3 2-KORD- 102.7	Joe Butte 155.475	Rattlesnake 162.450 Umatilla 162.500	161.730	SRN 155.475	63.123.154.102

Updated 11/30/12

ALL STATIONS COLUMBIA BASIN EAS AREA

	MANDATORY	FOR MINIMUM	EITHER	FULL PARTICIPATION			
INPUT	1	2	OR	1	2	3	4
SOURCE	WSEM	NWS		KONA LP-1	KORD- FM LP-2	LRN	
FREQUENCY	155.475	162.45		610 AM	102.7	161.73	
LOCATION	OLYMPIA	RATTLESNAKE MT.		TRI-CITIES	TRI-CITIES	TRI-CITIES	
TS LEVEL	NATL 2 STATE 1	LOCAL 1 WEATHER 1 STATE 2 NAT 3		NAT 2 LOCAL 2 WEATHER 2 STATE 2			

LP1 = KONA AM/FM

LP1S = KCHR

LP2 = KORD FM

LOCAL RELAY SOURCE: 162.45

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE RATTLESNAKE REPEATER
The following stations are monitoring 162.45.
These positions correspond with the monitoring positions on EAS devices.

Monitor 1	Monitor 2	Monitor 3	Monitor 4	Monitor 5	Monitor 6
KGDC AM	KFLD AM	KONA AM*	KALE AM		
KZHR FM	KXRX FM	KONA FM	KTCV FM		
KTWY FM	KARY AM	KVEW TV	KIOK FM		
	KARY FM	KEPR TV	KTCR AM		
	KORD FM		KNLT FM		
	KEYW FM		KEGX FM		
	K49CN TV				

APPENDIX 4

COLUMBIA BASIN OPERATIONAL AREA

ROSTER OF AUTHORIZED ACTIVATING ENTITIES

REDACTED INFORMATION

REDACTED INFORMATION

APPENDIX 5

COLUMBIA BASIN OPERATIONAL AREA

AUTHENTICATION PROCEDURES

To verify requests for activation in the following counties, please call the respective dispatch center at the following numbers:

REDACTED INFORMATION

APPENDIX 6

COLUMBIA BASIN OPERATIONAL AREA

EAS EVENT CODES

Washington State EAS Event Codes Master List

ADR	Administrative Message	FLA	Flood Watch	SVA	Severe Thunderstorm Watch
AVA	Avalanche Watch	FLS	Flood Statement	SVR	Severe Thunderstorm Warning
AVE	Avalanche Warning	FLW	Flood Warning	SVS	Severe Weather Statement
BZW	Blizzard Warning	FRW	Fire Warning	TOA	Tornado Watch
CAE	Child Abduction Emergency	HMW	Hazardous Materials Warning	TOE	911 Telephone Outage Emergency
CDW	Civil Danger Warning	HWA	High Wind Watch	TOR	Tornado Warning
CEM	Civil Emergency Message	HWW	High Wind Warning	TRA	Tropical Storm Watch
CFA	Coastal Flood Watch	LAE	Local Area Emergency	TRW	Tropical Storm Warning
CFW	Coastal Flood Warning	LEW	Law Enforcement Warning	TSA	Tsunami Watch
DMO	Practice/Demo Warning	NIC	National Information Center	TSW	Tsunami Warning
DSW	Dust Storm Warning	NMN	Network Message Notification	VOW	Volcano Warning
EAN	Emergency Action Notification	NPT	National Periodic Test	WSA	Winter Storm Watch
EAT	Emergency Action Termination	NUW	Nuclear Power Plant Warning	WSW	Winter Storm Warning
EQW	Earthquake Warning	RHW	Radiological Hazard Warning	SVA	Severe Thunderstorm Watch
EVI	Evacuation Immediate	RMT	Required Monthly Test	SVR	Severe Thunderstorm Warning
FFA	Flash Flood Watch	RWT	Required Weekly Test		
FFS	Flash Flood Statement	SPW	Shelter In Place Warning		
FFW	Flash Flood Warning	SMW	Special Marine Warning		

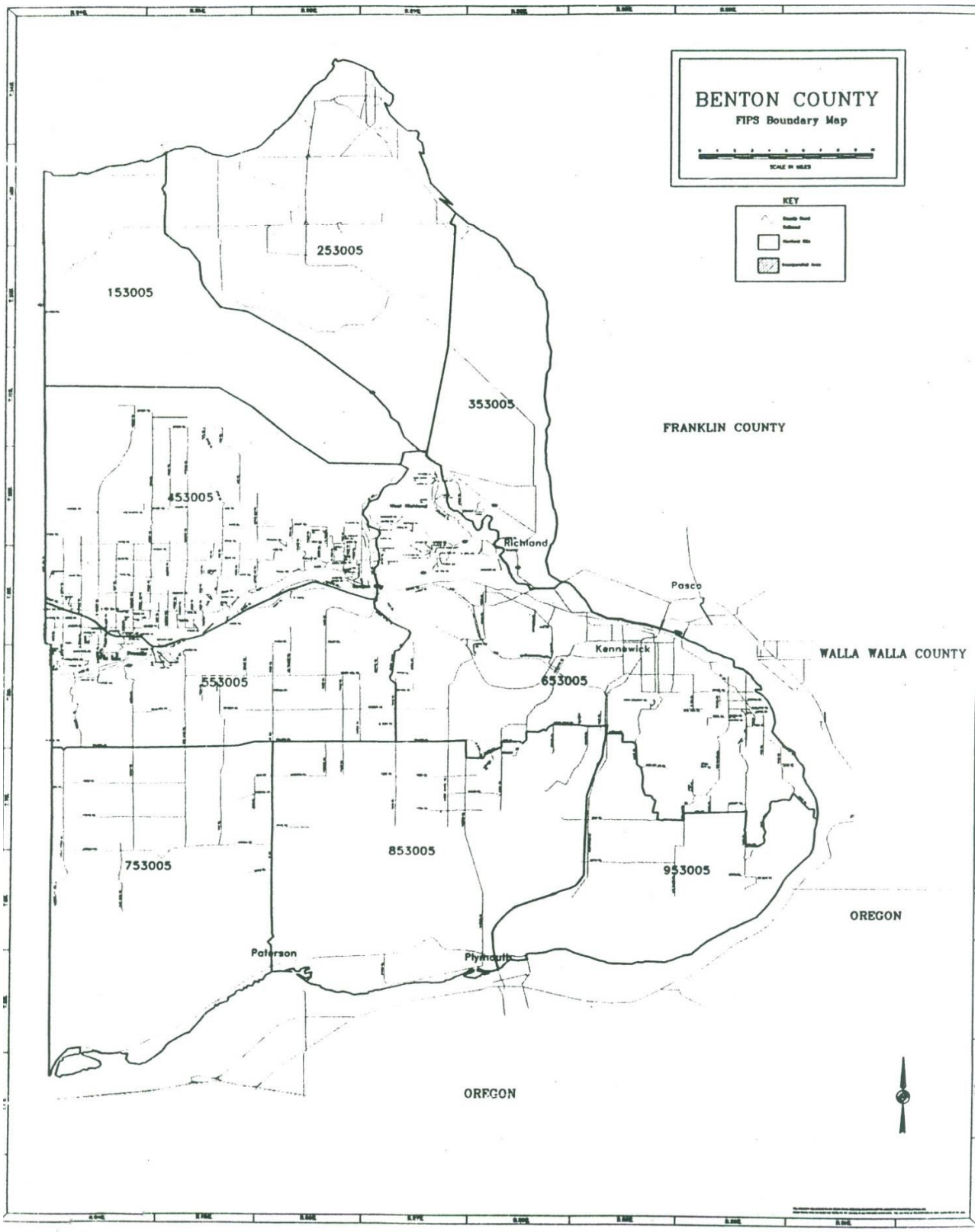
APPENDIX 7

COLUMBIA BASIN OPERATIONAL AREA

COUNTY SUBDIVISION MAPS AND DESCRIPTIONS

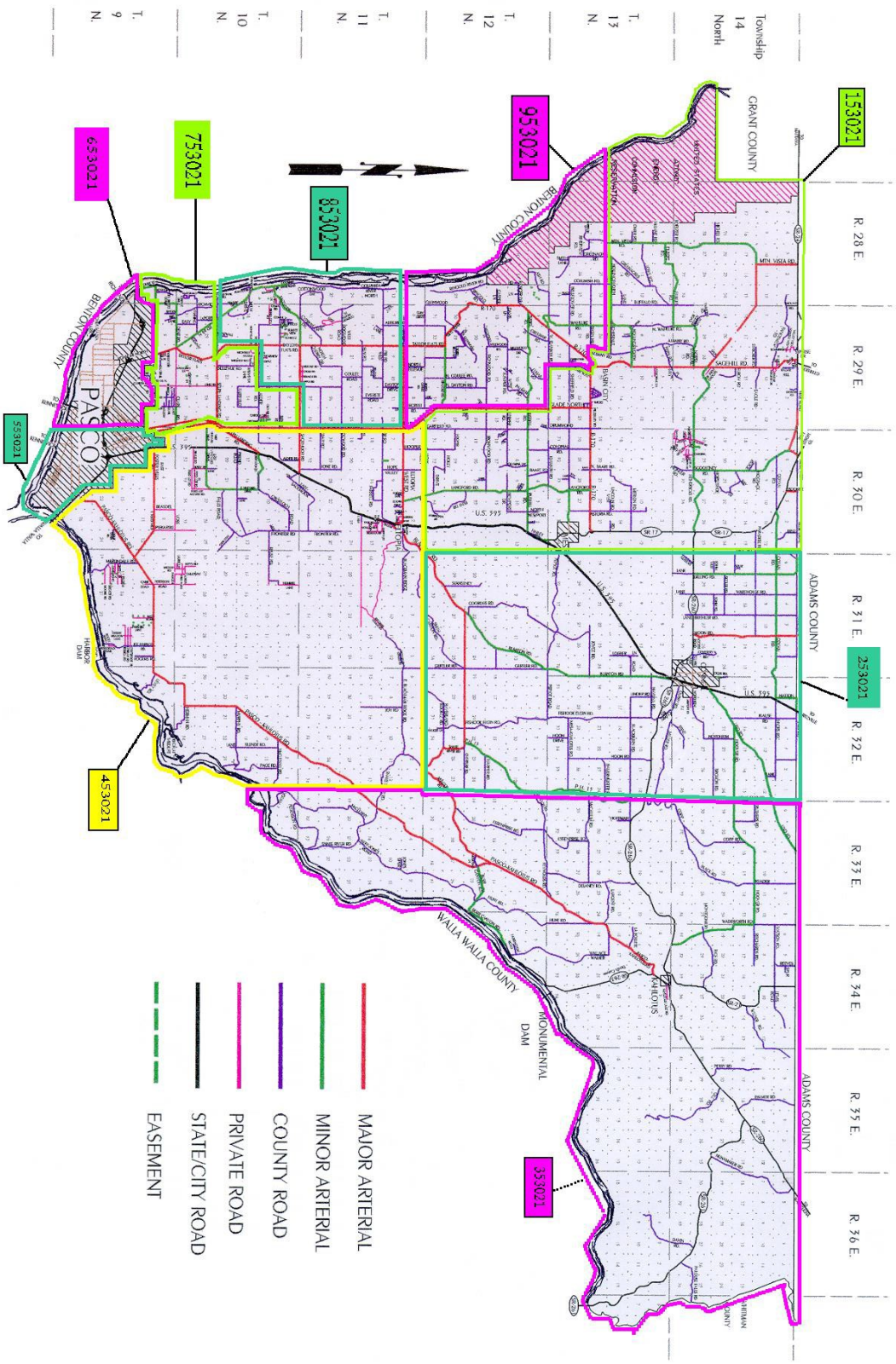
BENTON COUNTY 053005

AREA #	DESCRIPTION OF BOUNDARIES
0	**No designation. Selects the entire county.**
153005	**North boundary is the Columbia River. East boundary is Highway 24. South boundary is the ALE Road. West boundary is Benton County Line.**
253005	**North boundary is the Columbia River. East boundary is Route 2 south of the Columbia River. South boundary is Highway 240. West boundary is Highway 24.**
353005	**The north and east boundaries are the Columbia River. The south boundary is I-182 and the Yakima River. The west boundary is Route 2.**
453005	**The north boundary is the ALE Road. The east boundary is the Yakima River. The south boundary is I-82. The west boundary is Benton-Yakima County line.**
553005	**The north boundary is I-82. The east boundary is Webber Canyon Road. The south boundary is Sellards Road. The west boundary is the Benton-Yakima County line.**
653005	**The north boundary is I-182. The east boundary is the Columbia River. The south boundary is Sellards, Clodfelter,Locust Grove, Bateman, Beck Kirk and Meals Roads. The west boundary is Webber and Travis Roads.**
753005	**The north boundary is Sellards Road. The east boundary is Highway 221.The south boundary is the Columbia River. The west boundary is the Yakima-Benton County line.**
853005	**The north boundary is Sellards Road. The east boundary is I-82. The south boundary is the Columbia River. The west boundary is Highway 221.**
953005	**The north boundary is Bateman, Beck, Kirk and, Meals Roads. The east boundary is the Columbia River. The south boundary is the Columbia River and the west boundary is I-82.**


BENTON COUNTY
FIPS Boundary Map
KEY
253005
153005
353005
FRANKLIN COUNTY
453005
Richland
Pasco
Kennewick
WALLA WALLA COUNTY
553005
653005
753005
853005
953005
OREGON
Paterson
Plymouth
OREGON

Franklin County 053021

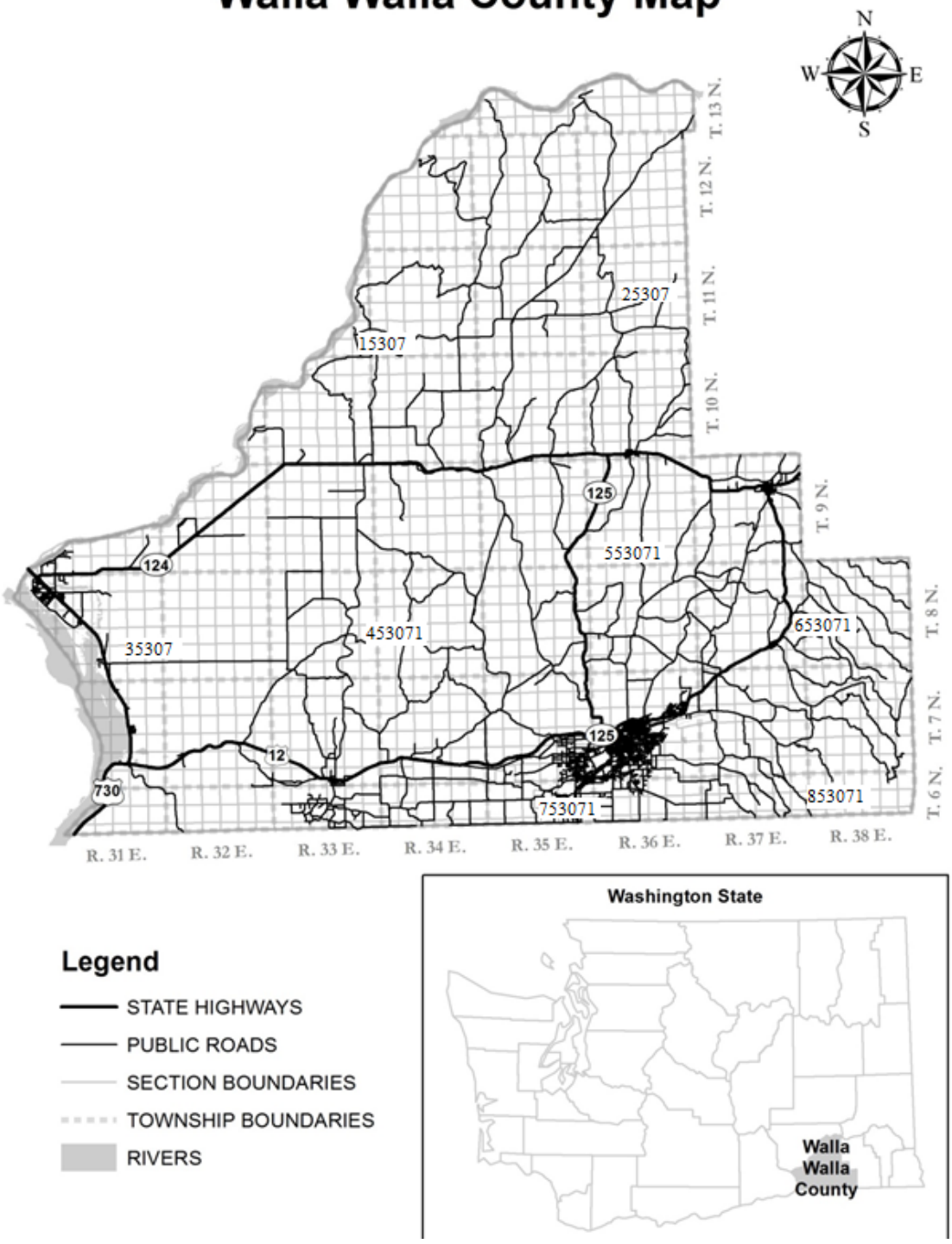
AREA #	DESCRIPTION OF BOUNDARIES
053021	**No designation. Selects the entire county.**
153021	**North boundary is the Adams County Line. East boundary is the Range 30 east line. South boundary is the Township 11 North line to Glade North, W. Klamath to Sagehill, Hollingsworth to the Columbia River. West boundary is the Columbia River.**
253021	**North boundary is the Adams County Line. East boundary is the Range 32 East line. South boundary is the Township 11 North line. West boundary is the Range 30 East line.**
353021	**North boundary is the Adams County line. East boundary is the Whitman County line. South boundary is the Snake River. West boundary is the Range 32 East line.**
453021	**North boundary is the Township 11 North line. East boundary is the range 32 East line. South boundary is the Snake River and the Pasco City limits. West boundary is the Range 29 East line.**
553021	**North boundary is the Pasco City limits. West boundary is 20th Avenue. South boundary is the Columbia River. East boundary is the Snake River and the Eastern Pasco City Limits.**
653021	**North boundary is the Pasco City limits. East boundary is 20th Avenue. South boundary is the Columbia River. West boundary is the Columbia River.**
753021	**North boundary is Selph Landing to Taylor Flats, Alder to Dayton, Sagemoor to Range 29 East. East boundary is Range 29 East. South boundary is the Pasco City limits. West boundary is the Columbia River.**
853021	**North boundary is Eltopia West Road. East boundary is Range 29 East. South boundary is Range 29 East to Sagemoor, Dayton to Alder, Taylor Flats to Selph Landing, to the Columbia River. West boundary is the Columbia River.**
953021	**North boundary is Hollingsworth from the Columbia River to Sagehill. East boundary is Sagehill to W. Klamath, Glade North to Eltopia West. South boundary is Eltopia West. West boundary is the Columbia River.**


153021
953021
753021
653021
853021
553021
453021
253021
353021
GRANT COUNTY
BENTON COUNTY
ADAMS COUNTY
WALLA WALLA COUNTY
FRANKLIN COUNTY
PASCO
KENNEWICK
KENNEWICK
MONUMENTAL DAM
HARBOR DAM
R. 28 E.
R. 29 E.
R. 30 E.
R. 31 E.
R. 32 E.
R. 33 E.
R. 34 E.
R. 35 E.
R. 36 E.
T. 9 N.
T. 10 N.
T. 11 N.
T. 12 N.
T. 13 N.
Township 14 North
MAJOR ARTERIAL
MINOR ARTERIAL
COUNTY ROAD
PRIVATE ROAD
STATE/CITY ROAD
EASEMENT

Walla Walla County 053071

AREA #	DESCRIPTION OF BOUNDARIES
0	**No designation. Selects the entire county.**
153071	**The north boundary is the Snake River. The east boundary is Magallan Road, Smith Springs Road, Piper Canyon Road. The south border is Highway 124. The west boundary is the Snake River.**
253071	**The north boundary is the Snake River. The east boundary is the Columbia County line. The south boundary is Highway 124. The west boundary is Magallan Road, Smith Springs Road, Piper Canyon Road.**
353071	**The north boundary is the Snake River and Highway 124. East boundary is the Touchet River Road. The south boundary is the Oregon border. The west boundary is the Columbia River.**
453071	**The north boundary is Highway 124. The east boundary is Ireland Road, Loney Road and Highway 125. The south boundary is the Oregon border. The west boundary is the Touchet River Road**
553071	**The north boundary is Highway 124 to the Columbia County line. The east boundary is the Columbia County line, Walker Road, and Highway 12. The south border is Smith Road and Valley Grove Road. The west border is Highway 125.**
653071	**The north boundary is the Columbia County border. The east boundary is the Columbia County line. The south boundary is Black Snake Ridge Road and Spring Creek Road. The west boundary is Highway 12, Walker Road.**
753071	**The north boundary is Loney Road, Valley Grove Road, and Smith Road.The east boundary is Burocker Road, 5 Mile Road and Foster Road. The south boundary is the Oregon border. The west boundary is Locher Road, Foster Road and Ireland Road.**
853071	**The north boundary is Spring Creek Road and Black Snake Ridge Road. The east border is the Columbia County line. The southern boundary is the Oregon border. The west boundary is Foster Road, 5 Mile Road and Burocker Road.**
9	**None designated per Emergency Management**

Walla Walla County Map



APPENDIX 8

COLUMBIA BASIN OPERATIONAL AREA

WASHINGTON STATE
EAS REQUIRED MONTHLY TEST
COLUMBIA BASIN AREA EAS 20xx RMT SCHEDULE
(SECC Approved xx/xx/xx)
CURRENT SCHEDULE PROVIDE UPON REQUEST

D/N	MONTH (*SS*)	DATE	DAY	TIME	ORIGINATOR
D	JAN (*xxxx*)				
N	FEB (*xxxx*)				
D	MAR (*xxxx*)				
N	APR (*xxxx*)				
D	MAY (*xxxx*)				
N	JUN (*xxxx*)				
D	JUL (*xxxx*)				
N	AUG (*xxxx*)				
N	SEP (*xxxx*)				
D	OCT (*xxxx*)				
D	NOV (*xxxx*)				
N	DEC (*xxxx*)				

D = Daytime activation (8:30 AM to local sunset) N = Nighttime activation (local sunset to 8:30 AM)

(*SS*) = Local sunset. Based on Prosser's (western-most location in EAS Area) sunset time and incorporates daylight savings times, as appropriate.

◄ March and September are activations that coincide with the Columbia Generating Station semi-annual tests of the emergency sirens and Tone Alert Radios to meet FEMA requirement.

APPENDIX 9

COLUMBIA BASIN OPERATIONAL AREA

FUTURE TECHNOLOGIES

FEMA EAS/IPAWS:

During an emergency, alert and warning officials need to provide the public with life-saving information quickly. The Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) is a modernization and integration of the nation's alert and warning infrastructure and will save time when time matters most, protecting life and property.

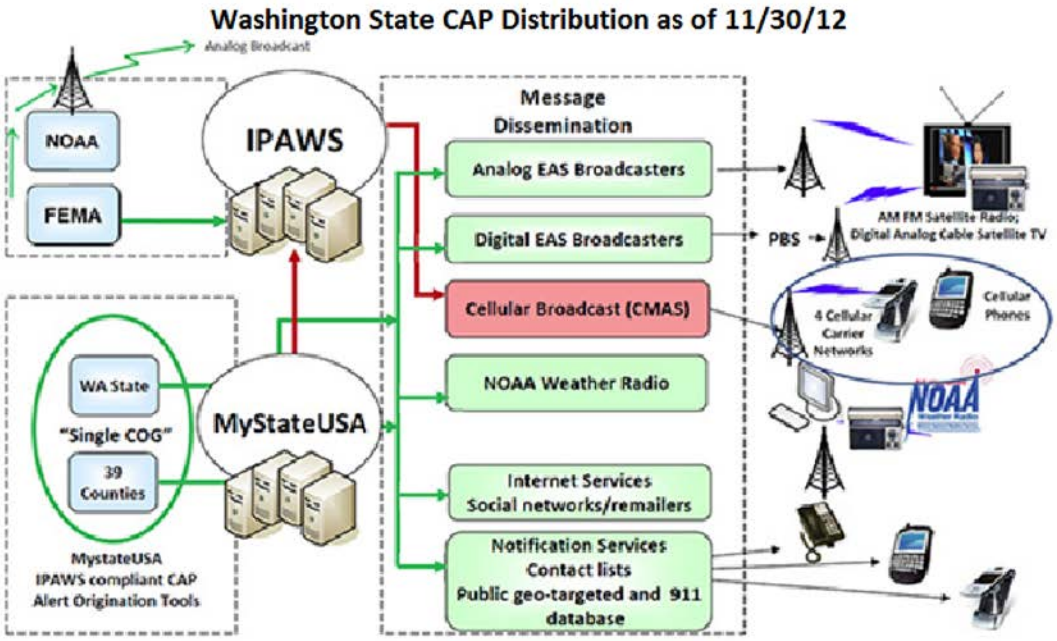
Federal, State, territorial, tribal and local alerting authorities can use IPAWS and integrate local systems that use Common Alerting Protocol standards with the IPAWS infrastructure. IPAWS provides public safety officials with an effective way to alert and warn the public about serious emergencies using the Emergency Alert System (EAS), Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio, and other public alerting systems from a single interface.

http://www.fema.gov/integrated-public-alert-warning-system

COMMON ALERTING PROTOCOL:

The Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) is a digital format for exchanging emergency alerts that allows a consistent alert message to be disseminated simultaneously over many different communications systems. FEMA worked with the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS) to develop a standardized international technical data profile that defines a specific way of using the standard for the purposes of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS).

Washington State-Level Activation Procedures



BENEFITS OF CAP:

As more systems are built or upgraded to CAP, a single alert can trigger a wide variety of public warning systems, increasing the likelihood that intended recipients receive the alert by one or more communication pathways. CAP provides the capability to include rich content, such as photographs, maps, streaming video and more as well as the ability to geographically-target alerts to a defined warning area, limited only by the capacity of the delivery system used. Because CAP provides the capability to incorporate both text and equivalent audio, CAP alerts can better serve the needs of hearing or visually impaired persons. Although IPAWS does not provide translation services, CAP does provide the capability to issue alerts in multiple languages.

http://www.fema.gov/common-alerting-protocol

IPAWS-OPEN

The Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Open Platform for Emergency Networks (IPAWS-OPEN) receives and authenticates messages transmitted by alerting authorities and routes them to IPAWS compliant public alerting systems. Software and hardware developers are creating IPAWS-OPEN compatible alert origination and dissemination tools for emergency management officials that allow messages to travel to the public via radio, television, mobile telephone, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio, internet-based systems, and other dissemination systems.

Private sector manufacturers of Emergency Alert System (EAS) encoder/decoder equipment are updating their products to be capable of receiving alerts from IPAWS-OPEN. IPAWS uses the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP), an international standard developed by Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS) and FEMA, in cooperation with private sector developers. Existing state or locally owned and operated warning systems – such as sirens, highway signs, or emergency telephone notification systems – can be configured to receive alerts from IPAWS-OPEN.

Additional capabilities of IPAWS-OPEN

In addition to authenticating and routing emergency alerts and warnings, IPAWS-OPEN has several additional capabilities:

Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) for Data Interoperability: IPAWS-OPEN supports the use of CAP by public safety organizations to exchange incident reports and related information between different IPAWS-OPEN-compatible software systems.

- National Weather Service (NWS) dissemination: IPAWS-OPEN employs a form of CAP that is compatible with existing NWS dissemination systems, including NOAA Weather Radio and HazCollect. IPAWS-OPEN may be used to route messages to the NWS gateway to increase the number of channels used to warn the public.
- Emergency Data Exchange Language Distribution Element (EDXL-DE): IPAWS-OPEN supports EDXL-DE, an OASIS data specification used for routing content between public safety organizations – such as maps, video, photographs, documents – in a wide variety of digital formats.

Who may use IPAWS-OPEN
Federal, State, territorial, tribal, and local government organizations are eligible to apply for free access to IPAWS-OPEN. Additional information about the application process is available on the Alerting Authorities web page and private or public sector developers can access, at no charge, the IPAWS test and development environment for the purpose of designing IPAWS-OPEN compatible systems.

http://www.fema.gov/integrated-public-alert-warning-system-open-platform-emergency-networks

Commercial Mobile Alert System (CMAS)

BACKGROUND:

- The Commercial Mobile Alert System (CMAS), also known as the Personal Localized Alert Network (PLAN) and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), is a partnership between the FCC, FEMA and wireless carriers, whose purpose is to enhance public safety.
- CMAS allows government authorities to use FEMA's IPAWS-OPEN platform to send geographically targeted, text-like alerts to the public via their wireless handsets.
- CMAS will relay Presidential, AMBER, and Imminent Threat alerts to mobile phones in a geographically targeted affected area.
- CMAS alerts are limited to 90 characters.
- CMAS is only available through IPAWS.
- The new technology ensures emergency alerts will not get backlogged during times of emergency when networks are highly congested.

- Authorized Federal, State, local, tribal or territorial officials can send CMAS alerts to the public.

CMAS FACTSHEET

http://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/ipaws/cmas_factsheet.pdf

WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERTS (WEAs)

- Wireless Emergency Alerts, or WEAs, are free messages sent directly to your cell phone, warning you about severe weather, AMBER Alerts, and threats to safety in your area.
- WEAs are sent to you by your state and local public safety officials, the National Weather Service, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and the President.
- WEAs are a new technology and may already be on your wireless cell phone or other wireless device.
- WEA's will be no more than 90 characters and will provide brief critical information about a threat in your location or an AMBER emergency
- The WEA notification is designed to get your attention and alert you with a unique sound and vibration. The unique sound and vibration is particularly helpful to people with hearing or vision-related disabilities.
- WEAs resemble a text message on your cell phone or other wireless device – but WEAs will not interrupt calls in progress.
- WEA messages allow alerts to be sent to cell phones in a geographically targeted affected area.
- WEAs are one-way alerts that are sent to any mobile device in range of the broadcasting cell tower which ensures that authorities cannot collect any data from an individual.
- WEAs are not affected by network congestion.
- Wireless customers will not be charged for the delivery of WEA messages and may contact their wireless mobile provider to opt-out of Imminent Threat or AMBER alerts, but may not opt-out of Presidential alerts.

WEA FACTSHEET

http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/20130726-1911-25045-3639/wea_fact_sheet.pdf

APPENDIX 10

COLUMBIA BASIN OPERATIONAL AREA

AMBER ALERT PROGRAM PLAN
(America's Missing Broadcast Emergency Response)

AMBER Alert in Washington is a program of voluntary cooperation between broadcasters, cable systems, and local and state law enforcement agencies to enhance the public's ability to assist in recovering abducted children. AMBER Alert notification is supported by the AMBER Alert Web Portal (Portal) and the Emergency Alert System (EAS). The Federal Communications Commission has authorized activation of the EAS for AMBER Alerts using the "child abduction emergency" code.
The AMBER Alert Program provides law enforcement agencies access to broadcast stations and cable systems during the critical minutes following the initial report of a child abduction using the Emergency Alert System (EAS) statewide activation point.

AMBER Alert Program Guidelines

The AMBER Alert Program Plan is initiated by a local request to the Washington State Patrol (WSP) and is a voluntary enhancement of the statewide Emergency Alert System. It is a provision of the Columbia Basin Area Emergency Communications Committee EAS Plan.

1. The Initiating point is the local investigating law enforcement agency. The local law enforcement agency is authorized to ask WSP to transmit/initiate an AMBER Alert message on behalf of their jurisdiction, if the criteria in this plan are met.

2. Activation of an AMBER EAS Alert will send a voice message, with a maximum length of two minutes, to all cooperating broadcast stations statewide, which includes those radio and television stations and cable operators who have agreed to participate in the Columbia Basin Operational Area. The Columbia Basin Operational area includes Benton, Franklin, Walla Walla Counties. The cooperating broadcast stations will automatically re-transmit the voice message, which interrupts scheduled programming.

3. An AMBER alert is a one-time event. Alerts may not be repeated. If additional information becomes available that would significantly increase its effectiveness, another AMBER alert may be sent, but no sooner than 15 minutes following the previous alert. The decision to send another alert must be warranted.

4. Radio and television stations, cable operators and local law enforcement officials must work together to ensure activations are disseminated to the public. The actual broadcast of an AMBER Alert is voluntary and the misuse of this privilege might be cause for broadcasters and cable operators to cease to participate in disseminating these messages.

5. The FCC-approved event code for an abducted child alert is "CAE."

6. The report of a child abduction is time sensitive. An AMBER Alert activation will be most effective if broadcast as soon as possible after the child abduction. For this reason, the

AMBER Alert will immediately be activated statewide upon the initial request by local law enforcement through the Washington State Patrol (WSP).

7. Local law enforcement agencies wishing to activate the EAS for an AMBER Alert, must coordinate with WSP - Yakima. The on-duty "road supervisor" of the responding law enforcement agency, must review the information, verify the criteria to activate an AMBER Alert is met, and initiate an AMBER Alert through the WSP in Yakima. The responding law enforcement agency must then complete the AMBER Alert Message form and faxed to WSP-Yakima for activation and dissemination.

8. The Yakima WSP Communications Center will verify the information, notify Washington State Emergency Management, Department of Transportation and the WSP ACCESS (which in turn, will notify the other 7 WSP Communications Centers and all other law enforcement agencies in the state. The local law enforcement agency will contact the WSP through normal means.

9. The AMBER alert does not allow for detailed information. Before issuing an AMBER alert, the law enforcement agency must be prepared to provide detailed information to local/statewide broadcast media to the extent that time allows. This can be accomplished a number of ways: faxing information to the broadcasters, holding a press conference or individual interviews with media. The local investigating agency must establish a Point of Contact for media, other law enforcement agencies and the general public at time of activation.

10. Coordinate with the Washington State Patrol - Yakima and Washington State Emergency Management to setup the **AMBER Alert Hotline 1-877-AMBER35 (1-877-262-3735) AND the AMBER Alert Web Portal)**, to assist the Local Law Enforcement Agency in setting up a statewide information/tip line. This number automatically forwards to the local law enforcement designated/assigned number.

11. Local law enforcement agencies must receive training on EAS/AMBER activations in accordance with standards established by WASPC's training plan.

AMBER Alert Criteria

In order to activate a statewide AMBER Alert, five (5) criteria must be met. All elements 1 through 5 should be satisfied, <u>after considering all the facts and circumstances of the incident</u>, for the incident to qualify as an AMBER Alert.

1. The child is under eighteen (18) years of age and is known to be abducted and is not a runaway or thrown-away from home.

2. The abducted child is believed to be in danger of death or serious bodily injury.

3. The AMBER Alert activation should occur within 4 hours of the event qualifying under the criteria as an AMBER Alert unless circumstances or the timeliness of the information warrant otherwise.
4. There must be enough descriptive information available to believe that an AMBER Alert activation will assist in the recovery of the child. (Must include as much of the following information as possible)

- √ Where the abduction took place;
- √ A specific physical description of the child [can include clothing worn when last seen; height, weight, age, hair and eye color, hair length, any additional distinguishing physical characteristics];
- √ A physical description of the abductor [can include approximate height, weight, hair color/length, eye/skin color, clothing; any distinguishing physical characteristics.]
- √ Place last seen;
- √ Description of the vehicle [can include color, make, model, license number, approximate year (older, newer);]

5. The incident must be reported to and investigated by a law enforcement agency.

If these five criteria are met, the activation must be requested by a local law enforcement agency in the local jurisdiction, to the Washington State Patrol for approval and activation.

NON-QUALIFYING USES

The following situations **WOULD NOT** qualify for AMBER Alert activation.

1. Missing child believed to have run away from home.

2. Missing child taken by a non-custodial relative in a child custody case.

3. Lost child. Certain circumstances may be present where a lost child is presumed to have been abducted. In these cases where law enforcement has exhausted efforts to find a child and circumstances suggest abduction, AMBER alert may be used.

4. Police search for criminal suspects (murder suspect, bank robber, etc.).

Broadcaster Follow-up Announcement Schedule

Following the broadcast of the AMBER Alert EAS message through the state relay network, the message will be forwarded through broadcast media outlets.

At this time and throughout the alert, broadcasters should refer to the Portal at http://www.WashingtonAMBERAlert.com as the single source for the latest detailed AMBER Alert information and photos. The local law enforcement agency in charge will add updated information to the Portal as it becomes available. The Portal will automatically push simultaneous notification that new information is available to broadcasters, law enforcement, the public and many partners who forward AMBER Alerts to a wide collection of audiences.

Once the station has transmitted the initial AMBER Alert:

- √ During the first three (3) hours after the broadcast of the initial AMBER Alert message the station should broadcast AMBER Alert follow-up announcements every 20 minutes, at a minimum, unless the AMBER Alert is terminated sooner. These messages should be announcements voiced by station personnel and can be incorporated into regular station programming as the station sees fit

√ The AMBER Alert follow-up announcements must not be a retransmission of the initial AMBER Alert, nor include the EAS header tones, event codes, etc.

√ During the **second** three (3) hours stations with live personnel should broadcast an AMBER Alert follow-up announcement once every half-hour, at a minimum, unless the AMBER Alert is terminated sooner.

√ After six (6) hours, the station, in its discretion, may continue to broadcast the AMBER Alert follow-up announcements until the AMBER Alert is formally terminated by the activating law enforcement agency, or at the agency's request.

AMBER Alert Cancellation

Once the abducted child has been located or the effective activation period has elapsed (6-12hours) the Amber Alert needs to be canceled using the following steps:

1. Upon location of the abducted child, or when the activation period has elapsed, the requesting local law enforcement agency will notify the Yakima WSP Communications Center and inform them of the AMBER Alert termination and fax them the Amber Alert Cancellation form (the Web Portal can also be utilized). The Yakima WSP will in turn contact Washington State Emergency Management, Department of Transportation and the WSP ACCESS (which in turn, will notify the other 7 WSP Communications Centers and all other law enforcement agencies in the state) of the AMBER Alert termination.

Alert Information Form

AGENCY INFORMATION
Agency
Officer's Name/Rank
Internal Contact # / Public Contact #
Supervisor's Approval *(Include Name/Rank)*
Date

Y	N*	
___	___	- Is this believed to be a child abduction?
___	___	- Was this child under the age of 18 years or have a proven mental/physical disability?
___	___	- Is there reason to believe the victim is in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death?
___	___	- Is there enough information to send to the public that could assist in the safe recovery of the victim or apprehension of a suspect?
___	___	- Has the abduction occurred w/in 4 hours or does circumstances/timeliness warrant otherwise.

*Please do NOT request AMBER Alert if the answer is ***No*** to any of these questions.

Please include all applicable data:

INCIDENT DATA
Time and Date of Event _____

Location of Abduction _____

Last Known Direction of Travel _____

VICTIM DATA
Name _____ Age _____ Race and Sex _____
Hair Color, Length, and Style _____ Height/Weight _____
Eye Color _____ Clothing _____
Personal Items or Distinguishing Marks _____

VICTIM DATA #2
Name _____ Age _____ Race and Sex _____
Hair Color, Length, and Style _____ Height/Weight _____
Eye Color _____ Clothing _____
Personal Items or Distinguishing Marks _____

SUSPECT DATA
Name _____ Age _____ Race and Sex _____
Hair Color, Length, and Style _____ Height/Weight _____
Eye Color _____ Clothing _____
Distinguishing Marks _____

SUSPECT DATA #2
Name _____ Age _____ Race and Sex _____
Hair Color, Length, and Style _____ Height/Weight _____
Eye Color _____ Clothing _____
Distinguishing Marks _____

VEHICLE DATA
Color and Year _____ Make, Model, and Style _____
License Plate Number and State _____
Distinguishing Marks _____

Attach Additional Data as Necessary

AMBER Alert Message Form

"This is an activation of the AMBER Alert System.

We have just received important information regarding an abducted child in

_____. The _____
(area, city, neighborhood) *(law enforcement jurisdiction(s))*

is/are looking for a child who was last seen at _____ and is believed
(location)

to be in danger. The child's name is _____. He/She is a ___ year
(name) *(age)*

old, _____, _____ with _____hair and was last seen wearing _____
(race) *(boy/girl)* *(color)*

_____. Authorities
(description of clothing)

say that the child may be in the company of _____
(name, description, clothing)

_____ and they may be traveling in a

_____ that was last seen heading
(vehicle year, make, model, color)

_____. If you have any information on the whereabouts of this
(direction and street/city location)

child, _____, please contact _____immediately.
(name or description of child) *(Point of Contact telephone number)*

Sample AMBER Broadcaster Follow-up Announcement Text

"_____(Name of Agency) has an Amber Alert advisory. An Amber Alert has been issued for Washington State.
_____ (listeners/viewers) are advised to look for (vehicle description), driven by (suspect description). The victim is (victim details) has been abducted by a non-family member and is at risk of physical harm. If you see a (vehicle description), please dial 911 immediately, and tell the operator you have an Amber Alert sighting for the Washington State Patrol dispatch. Again, if you see (vehicle description), please dial 911."

AMBER Alert Termination Form

"This is an activation of the AMBER Alert System. This is _____

_____. We have just received important information
(Emergency Management/9-1-1 Dispatch, law enforcement agency)

regarding the abducted child in _____. The Amber Alert issued
(general area, city, county)

in _____ is now terminated.
(city or county area)

Please tune to your local media for more information on this incident.