

MADISON COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN
ANNEX C
NOTIFICATION AND WARNING

Updated: January 28, 2009

Primary Agency:	Communications / 911
Support Agencies:	Fire Departments
	Sheriff
	Municipal Law Enforcement
	Emergency Management
	Others as required or requested

I. PURPOSE

This annex describes the process for staffing, operating and maintaining a warning system in the event of an emergency. It also provides instructions for dissemination of warning information to response agencies and the general public throughout the county.

II. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

- A. Emergency warning may originate at the national, state or local level of government. Timely and coordinated warning requires dissemination to the public by all available means, including but not limited to:
 - 1. National Warning System (NAWAS)
 - 2. National Weather Service (NWS)
 - 3. Emergency Broadcast System (EBS)
 - 4. State operated two-way radio systems
 - 5. N.C. Division of Criminal Information (DCI)
 - 6. Local government two-way radio systems
 - 7. Sirens, horns, or mobile public address systems
 - 8. Telephone
- B. Receipt and Dissemination of Warning
 - 1. The N.C. Highway Patrol is the State Warning Point at the Raleigh Communications Center. NAWAS and NWS alerts are received there from federal agencies.
 - 2. Warning received from the site of an emergency is normally reported to the County Warning Point.
 - 3. Notification of governmental officials and emergency response personnel from the County.
- C. The County Warning Point will follow established procedures and operate within the Incident Command System.

D. Dissemination of warning prior to and during major emergencies will be by:

1. Siren system.
2. Emergency Alert System (EAS).
3. Weather alert radios.
4. Mobile public address systems as appropriate.
5. House to house alert by emergency personnel.

E. Dissemination of warning to special populations:

1. Hearing impaired, special care groups, persons in group quarters and non-English speaking groups are notified by the most expedient means possible.
2. Public schools, hospitals and other special warning locations are notified by emergency personnel working at the County Warning Point or EOC.

F. Within the National Response Framework, Notification, Warning and Communications are an emergency support function (ESF-2).

III. ORGANIZATION

A. Organization

1. The County Warning Point, located in the Madison County Communications Center, operates on a continuous 24-hour basis from which key officials and the public can be alerted. The Warning Point has the capability to simultaneously activate warning devices for the public.
2. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) provides an operational public warning capability to national, state and local governments. The primary Emergency Alert System (EAS) Station is WHBK-AM radio located in Marshall, North Carolina.

IV. DIRECTION AND CONTROL

- A. The Chairman of the County Commission or designee has the authority to direct and control the County Warning System.
- B. The Communications Director is designated as the County Warning Coordinator and will follow established County warning procedures.

V. CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT

A. The line of succession is:

1. On-duty Dispatcher
2. Chief Dispatcher
3. Communications Director
4. Emergency Management Coordinator

- B. Lines of succession for agencies that support the warning operation are in accordance with their agencies established policies.

VI. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

- A. The County has the following warning systems available for use in an emergency:
 - 1. Sirens at volunteer fire departments.
 - 2. Two-way radio systems operated by the Madison County Communications Center.
 - 3. Emergency vehicles equipped with mobile public address systems.
- B. Special needs populations in the county (e.g. handicapped, hearing impaired, non-English speaking) will be identified to ensure that they are contacted during alert conditions.
- C. Agreements have been made with LP-1 station managers to disseminate information in accordance with this annex.

Attachment 1 Emergency Alert System (EAS)

I. PURPOSE

This attachment provides specific instructions and procedures for Madison County government and suggested procedures for the Designated Administrative Officials to follow in the dissemination of emergency alerting and warning information and protective action instructions to the citizens of Madison County over the Emergency Alerting System (EAS).

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Emergency Alerting System (EAS):** The EAS is composed of AM, FM and TV broadcast stations and non-governmental industry entities operating on a voluntary, organized basis during emergencies at federal, state or operational (local) area levels.
- B. **Local Primary One (LP-1):** The LP-1 is a radio station that acts as a key EAS monitoring source. Each LP-1 station must monitor its regional Primary Entry Point (PEP) station and a back-up source for Presidential messages.
- C. **Participating National (PN):** PN stations are broadcast stations that transmit EAS National, state, or local EAS messages to the public.
- D. Additional definitions may be found in the Code of Federal Regulations 47 CFR 11.2.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

This plan calls for:

- A. The prompt reporting of emergency information and recommended protective actions by federal, state, business, industry and utility officials to the County Warning Point. These reports include severe weather watches and warnings as well as other hazards such as dam failures, hazardous materials and other threats to the citizens of Madison County as shown in the Basic Plan.

- B. The prompt reporting of emergency information and recommended protective action to the County Warning Point by Emergency Service personnel or others at the scene of the emergency.
- C. A decision by local government to disseminate the emergency alerting, warning and protective actions instructions over the LP-1 (or over the primary stations within Madison County).
- D. Prepare the information in written form.
- E. Activation procedure for the EAS is:
- Prepare a written statement that can be read into the system inside of two (2) minutes.
 - Contact the NC Division of Emergency Management (800-858-0368).
 - Tell the operator of the need to activate the EAS system and be prepared to authenticate the message with the current authentication code.
 - Read the prepared message into the system.
 - Activation of EAS will initiate from the State EOC.
- F. The termination of the procedure when it is no longer required.