

Emergency Alert System (EAS) Procedures for the Municipality of Anchorage EAS Local Area



Plan Revised November 4, 2024

Introduction

This Emergency Alert System (EAS) Local Area Plan was developed by the Municipality of Anchorage Local Area Emergency Communications Committee in cooperation with local broadcast and cable operators. The plan outlines the methods used to disseminate emergency information and warning to the general public in the Anchorage EAS Local Area or any portion thereof, within the broadcast coverage and cable system service areas, at the request of local, State and Federal officials. This local EAS plan may be activated in response to common local emergency situations such as power outages, floods, civil disorders, earthquakes, heavy snows or any occurrence which poses a danger to life or property.

Acceptance of/or participation in this plan shall not be deemed as a relinquishment of program control and shall not be deemed to prohibit a broadcast licensee or cable operator from exercising his independent discretion and responsibility in any given situation. Broadcast stations and cable systems originating emergency communications shall be deemed to have conferred rebroadcast authority. The concept of management of each broadcast station and cable system to exercise discretion regarding the transmission of emergency information and instructions to the general public is provided by the FCC Rules and Regulations.

Authority

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)

Key EAS Sources

Local Primary Source (LP-1)

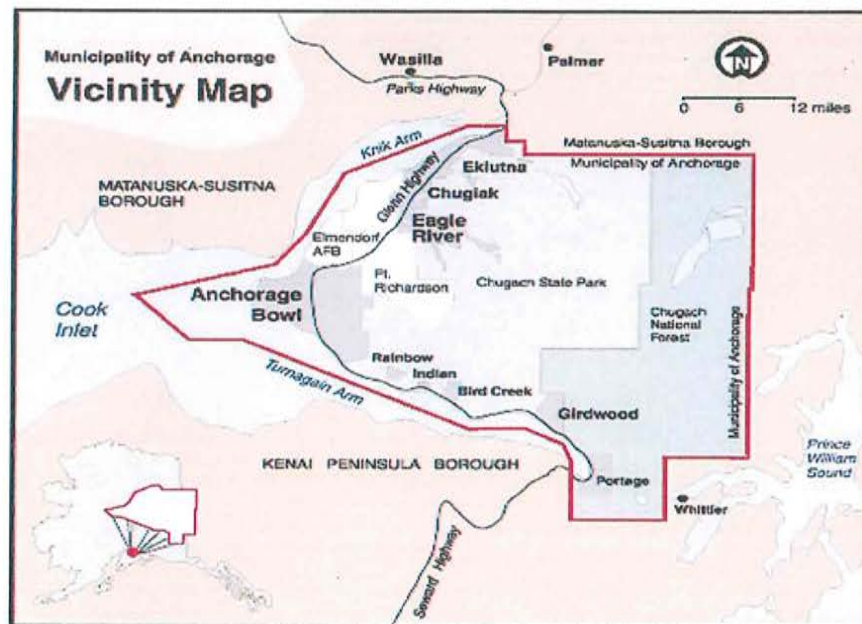
Location	KFQD AM 750
EAS Codes in Encoder/Decoder	
EAS Monitoring Assignments	Alaska Primary Entry Point, Alaska DHS&EM, NOAA Weather Radio, KSKA, EMNet
Contact	Steve Simmons
Telephone	(907) 349-0622
Unlisted Telephone	(907) 793-0004
Hours of Operation	24 hours

Local Primary Source (LP-2)

Location	KSKA FM 91.1
EAS Codes in Encoder/Decoder	
EAS Monitoring Assignments	KFQD, NPR Network, EMNet, NOAA Weather Radio
Contact	Paul Jewusiak
Telephone	(907) 550-8407
Unlisted Telephone	(907) 830-7898
Hours of Operation	24 hours

Local Area

The Anchorage local EAS area includes the Municipality of Anchorage, Eklutna, Peter’s Creek, Chugiak, Eagle River, Rainbow, Indian, Bird Creek, Girdwood, and Portage. The map below shows the overall coverage area.



General Alerting Procedures

The Municipality of Anchorage has access to the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System and is considered an Alerting Authority. That authority allows for the Municipality to send messages directly via the Emergency Alert System and Wireless Emergency Alerts. Within the organization, authorized officials and procedures are outlined in Appendix G.1 of the Comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan.

It is preferable for Municipality staff to utilize their in-house tools to disseminate public alerts and warning. This allows for pre-built templates and established procedures to be followed. There may be occasions where it is not possible to initiate messages directly, such as during a technology failure. In these instances, other parties outlined in this plan can initiate messages on request of an authorized individual. In these cases, contact the following entities to send messages in this order:

1. **State of Alaska, DMVA, Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (DHS&EM)**
2. **National Weather Service (NWS) (find procedure for IPAWS)**
3. **FEMA Technical Services Support Facility (TSSF)**

The DHS&EM can transmit messages on behalf of the municipality upon request. Note that normal staffing of the State Emergency Operations Center is 7:30am – 4:30pm Monday – Friday, excluding state holidays. A duty officer is available after these hours, however, response may be slower.

The NWS facility in Anchorage is staffed 24/7 and can disseminate messages via EAS and WEA, as well as through the NOAA Weather Radio network. While the NWS does have continuous staffing, they should be considered a secondary activation source as they are limited in the type of messages they are authorized to send. The primary limitation involves WEA. Only weather-related messages can be transmitted via WEA from the NWS. Other message types can be disseminated by NWS to EAS and NOAA weather radio transmitters.

The agreement with the NWS to initiate IPAWS messages on behalf of the Municipality of Anchorage will not be effective until an MOU between the NWS and the Municipality of Anchorage is signed, and the MOU is included as an addendum to the EAS plan. This MOU is intended to detail the procedures for initiating an IPAWS message, authentication of the IPAWS message, message content including template IPAWS messages, the activation area, the duration of the alert, and a point of contact to maintain communications during the incident.

The FEMA Technical Services Support Facility can alert on behalf of the Municipality. Per their procedures, it is required to attempt to contact other jurisdictions that may be authorized to send on behalf first (i.e. Alaska DHS&EM) before contacting the TSSF. The TSSF will gather the alert information and verify with a State of Alaska authorized contact before sending the alert.

Implementation

Procedures for Designated Officials

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 therefore, must formulate and transmit clear and concise emergency messages. Broadcasters and cable operators simply forward the local emergency information they receive.

Activation Request

In general, EAS activation will occur through the IPAWS system. Whenever possible, authorized officials should utilize the procedures outlined in the Municipality of Anchorage IPAWS Standard Operating Guideline to directly compose and transmit messages.

If the system isn't available, request activation of the EAS through the DHS&EM or FEMA via phone or other available communications facilities. To contact the DHS&EM, call (907) 428-7100. To contact the FEMA TSSF, call (844) 729-7522.

Details of Transmission

Upon authentication, designated officials determine transmission details (i.e., live or recorded, immediate or delayed). Officials should provide emergency program material including a description of the emergency, actions being taken by local government, and instructions to the public.

Procedures for Broadcast and Cable System Personnel

The IPAWS system is automated, therefore broadcast personnel do not have an active role in disseminating warning messages. Generally, broadcast equipment is setup to automatically forward authenticated warning messages.

Procedures for Monitoring Stations and Cable Systems

All other broadcast stations and cable systems are monitoring key sources via EAS monitor receiver/decoders and will be alerted by the header codes and attention signal. Each station and cable system upon receipt of the signal will, at the discretion of management, transmit the emergency message from the LP-1 or LP-2.

To avoid unnecessary escalation of public confusion, all stations and cable systems must be cautious in providing news and information pertaining to the emergency. All messages must be based on definite and confirmed facts. The public must not be left to decide what is or is not fact.

Upon completion of the above transmission procedures, resume normal programming. Appropriate notations should be made in the station and cable system records. A very brief summary may be sent to the FCC for information purposes only.

Designated Officials for the Municipality of Anchorage EAS plan

The following MOA officials are authorized to initiate requests for EAS activation. Current phone and email contact information to be used for verification purposes will be provided as required via separate correspondence.

Anchorage Police Department

Police Chief
Deputy Chief(s)
Communications Director
Dispatch Supervisor

Anchorage Fire Department

Fire Chief
Deputy Chief(s)
Assistant Chief(s)

Office of Emergency Management

Emergency Management Director
Emergency Program Manager (s)

Municipal Manager or Deputy Municipal Manager

Municipal Mayor or Chief of Staff

Plan Approval

This Municipality of Anchorage EAS Local Area plan was developed and approved by the Anchorage EAS Local Emergency Communications Committee.

The plan is coordinated with and distributed to all designated officials and all broadcast stations and cable systems listed in this plan.

<u>Joe Campbell</u> Joe Campbell, Broadcast EAS Local Area Chair	<u>11/14/2024 6:00:14 AM AKST</u> Date
<u>Chris Brandt</u> Chris Brandt, Cable EAS Local Area Chair	<u>11/19/2024 10:05:00 AM PST</u> Date
<u>Aviva Braun</u> Aviva Braun, National Weather Service	<u>11/18/2024 9:13:53 AM AKST</u> Date
<u>Amanda Loach</u> Amanda Loach, Local Government Official	<u>11/13/2024 9:08:49 AM AKST</u> Date
<u>Rebecca Windt Pearson</u> Rebecca A. Windt Pearson, Local Government Certifying Official	<u>11/20/2024 2:25:01 PM AKST</u> Date

List of EAS Codes Transmitted by EAS Key Sources

Key EAS Source (County FIPS #)	ORG – Originator	EEE – Event
02000 State Code	CIV	EAN – Emergency Action Notification
02000 State Code	CIV	NIC – National Information Center
02000 State Code	CIV	NPT – National Periodic Test
02000 State Code	CIV	RMT – Required Monthly Test
02000 State Code	CIV	RWT – Required Weekly Test
02000 State Code	CIV	CAE – Child Abduction Emergency
02020 Local Code	CIV/WX	LAE – Local Area Emergency
02020 Local Code	CIV/WX	FRW – Fire Warning
02020 Local Code	CIV/WX	EVI – Immediate Evacuation
02020 Weather Code	WX	BZW – Blizzard Warning
02020 Weather Code	WX	FFW – Flash Flood Warning
02020 Weather Code	WX	SVR – Severe Thunderstorm Warning
02020 Weather Code	WX	TSW – Tsunami Warning

