

# Integrated Public Alert and Warning System

## IPAWS

**Fire Chiefs: Are you informed on your alert and warning options available through IPAWS?**



**IPAWS alert and warnings can be simultaneously sent to a variety of sources**

- ✓ Cell phones
  - (Wireless Emergency Alert) WEA is sent to all people in the area with newer model cell phones
- ✓ Emergency Alert System
- ✓ Reverse notification systems
- ✓ HazCollect Non-Weather Emergency Messages (NWEMs)

**As Incident Commander what action do you need the public to take?**

- Evacuate?
- Shelter-in-place?
- Avoid the area



Today's hazards require immediate and direct messaging to members of the public. Counties, cities of the first class, and tribal governments are becoming IPAWS ready. Is your community ready?

- **Contact your Emergency Manager/PSAP Director and learn the procedures for using IPAWS**
- **Ensure direct messaging is in your Emergency Operations Plan**
- **Include simulated IPAWS alerts in your exercises**
- **Learn more about the IPAWS process (see back page)**



## Steps to become an authorized IPAWS Alerting Authority

**STEP 1: Training** – To make an informed decision you need knowledge. Complete Integrated Public Alert and Warning System web-based training IS-247.A.

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/courseOverview.aspx?code=is-247.a>

Applications must include a completed independent study course certificate. IS-247.A is a prerequisite for full access to IPAWS OPEN but does not provide training on third-party authorized software nor answer any vendor-related software support questions.

**STEP 2: Select System** - Select IPAWS compatible software. If you already have a mass notification system this will be a software add-on. A list of approved vendors is available on the IPAWS OPEN Developer List.

[http://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/ipaws/open\\_developers.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/ipaws/open_developers.pdf)

Alerting authorities authorized to use IPAWS are designated as a Collaborative Operating Group (COG). Each COG administers individual member accounts through its software system.

**STEP 3: MOA** - Apply for a Memorandum of Agreement with FEMA. Go online to <http://www.fema.gov/alerting-authorities#3> To request a COG, an MOA governing security system must be executed between the organization and FEMA.

**STEP 4: Permission** - Apply for public alerting permissions. The application for IPAWS Public Alerting Authority will be provided to you when you apply for a COG MOA with FEMA. It will include contact information for the designated state reviewer. This is needed to ensure consistency with the state's public alerting plans. This must be signed by a state designated official prior to submission to FEMA.

### *Learn more, get trained and get involved*

- **IPAWS Committee Chair**

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- **State contact for approval process**

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