

Minnesota Integrated Public Alert and Warning System - Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 4 - April 2012

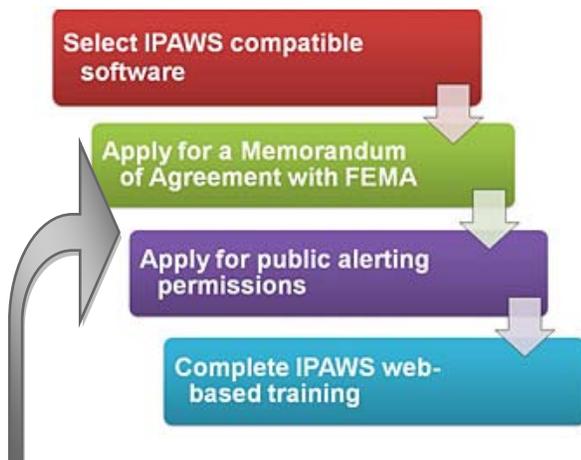
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State Review Process for Collaborative Operating Group (COG)

Last month we covered what to do to apply for a Collaborative Operating Group (COG). Part of the FEMA process of granting access to the IPAWS OPEN server is validation. This is where the state review process comes in.



FEMA asks a pre-designated person in each state for assistance in validating IPAWS access requests. The state designee must check:

- Requesters are actually who they say they are.
- Requesters are authorized to send out an alert in accordance with their current state EAS (Emergency Alert System) plan.
- The codes requesters are asking to use to alert the public are authorized by the current state EAS (Emergency Alert System) plan.

In Minnesota this process is done at the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

When the above items are validated and meet the criteria the request will be sent back to FEMA with an approval from the state.

Items pertaining to CMAS (Commercial Mobile Alerting System) and HazCollect will be reviewed and approved by the state. There currently is no FEMA guidance for these programs. A policy must still be drafted and approved.

IPAWS Committee Update

On April 19, the second IPAWS Committee meeting, lead by Committee Chair Ulie Seal, was held at the MN DOT Training Center in Arden Hills. Action items this month were to review the committee charter, work plan and select/elect a vice chair and work group leaders

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for the policy, infrastructure and public information work groups.

The following persons were selected/elected to those positions:

Vice Chair – Michael Martin, Minnesota Cable Communications Association

Work Groups

Policy – Jim du Bois, Minnesota Broadcasters Association

Infrastructure – John Dooley, HSEM

Public Information – Co-chairs Julie Anderson, DPS Office of Communications and Scott Williams, Metro Radio Regional Board representative

The committee will meet the third Thursday of each month. The IPAWS Committee [Web page](#) is being populated with more information every week. Use the link above to keep up with committee information on membership, agendas, training links and more. If you would like to receive information about the committee meetings and actions sign up for the [MN-IPAWS](#) electronic mailing list.

IPAWS web-based training



FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) offers the independent study course, [IS-247 Integrated Public Alert and Warning System](#).

The goal of the course is to provide authorized public safety officials with:

- Increased awareness of the benefits of using IPAWS for effective public warnings.
- Skills to draft appropriate, effective, and accessible warning messages.
- Best practices in the effective use of Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) to reach all members of their communities.

The course should take approximately two hours to complete and is a prerequisite for full access to IPAWS OPEN for the purpose of public alerting. FEMA does not provide training on third-party authoring software. You will have to contact your vendor for any software support questions.

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Commercial Mobile Alert System

The Wireless Association has posted a webpage with links to each of the major wireless providers sites listing what phones are available from those carriers and an extensive 'frequently asked question' section. Check it out at:

http://www.ctia.org/consumer_info/safety/index.cfm/AID/12081

Next Issue:

- HazCollect

Contact Information and Resources

[Alert and Warning Page](#)

<http://hsem.dps.mn.gov>

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