Integrated Public Alert and Warning System

IPAWS

Are you ready to receive an alert or warning through IPAWS?

How does IPAWS work?

- Allows authorities to combines multiple warning steps into one efficient process
- Sends the information to people physically in the area in addition to those signed up through mass notification systems. This ensures tourists and visitors receive warnings along with residents.

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

- ✓ Emergency Alert System (broadcast on radio and television)
- ✓ Mass notification systems
- ✓ Cell phones (Wireless Emergency Alert) WEA is sent to all people in the area with newer model cell phones
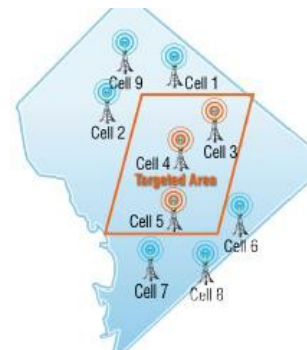
Messages

Should people in the affected area

- Evacuate?
- Shelter-in-place?

Is the emergency a

- Civil Danger Warning?
- Civil Emergency Message?

GEO-TARGETING

Who is permitted to be an alerting authority?

- **Federal**
- **State**
- **Tribal**
- **County/City of the first class**

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

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

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