

IPAWS

Integrated Public Alert and Warning System

Committee Chair: Ulie Seal

Statewide Emergency Communications Board

Strategic Planning Session

September 10-11, 2014



Topics

- What is IPAWS?
- What has been accomplished?
- Where do we need to go?
- What are the challenges to getting there?



What is IPAWS

- A system of systems that enables mass notification by an alerting authority
- Goal is to warn all people in the danger area using multiple pathways at one time



Alert and Warning background

- 1951 - CONELRAD – Radio / Sirens
- 1963 - EBS - Radio / Television
- 1997 - EAS - Radio / TV / Cable
- 2006 – IPAWS established by Executive Order 13407
 - To add in the Wireless Industry
- 2009 - Wireless Emergency Alerts
- 2011 - Nationwide EAS test (1st ever)
- 2013 – Congress formally funds Alert and Warning program
- 2014 – FCC directs nationwide testing at least every two years

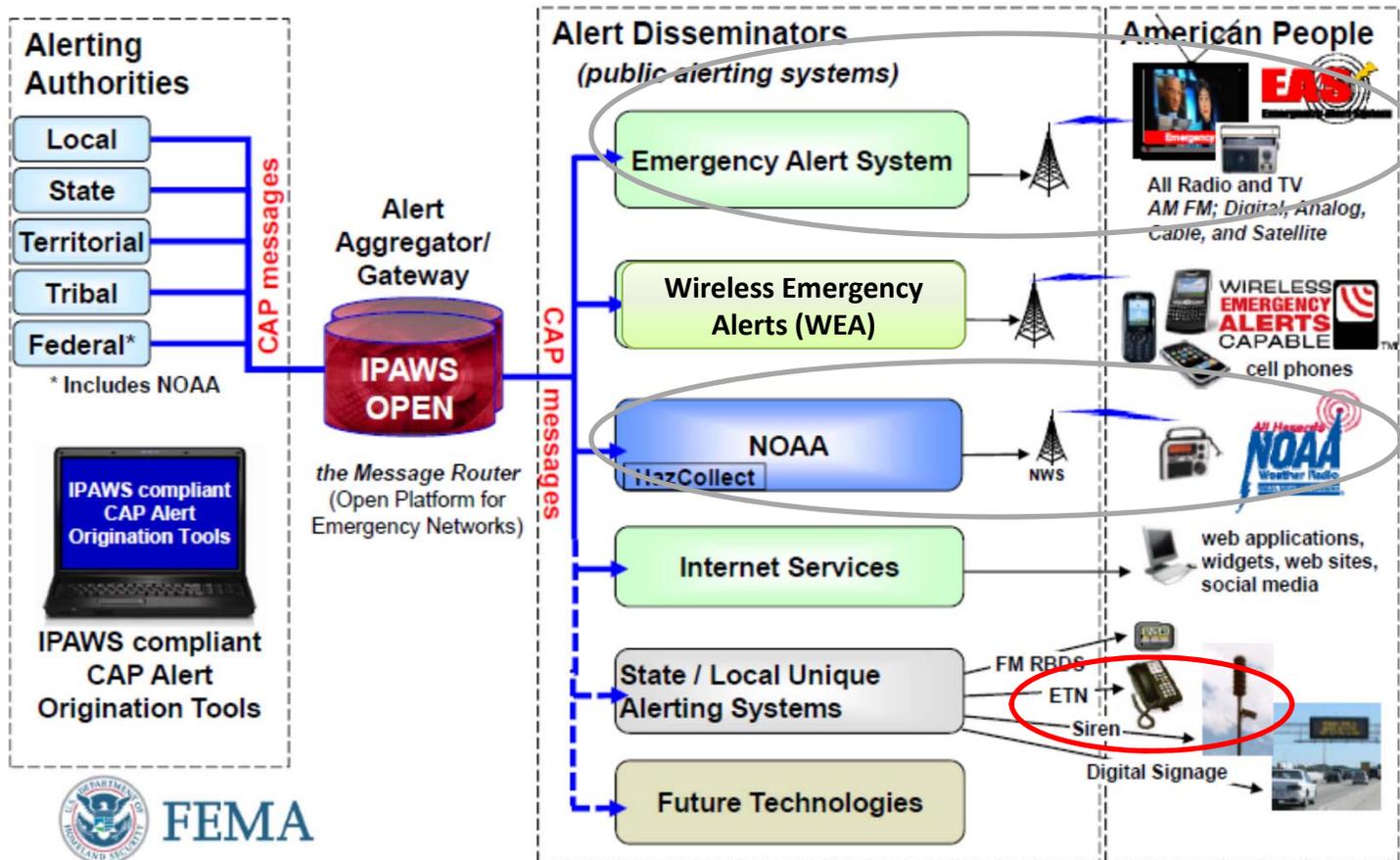
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How does it work

IPAWS Architecture

Standards based alert message protocols, authenticated alert message senders, shared, trusted access & distribution networks, alerts delivered to more public interface devices



Why you need it

- Gives jurisdiction greater tools to warn the public with:
 - Wireless Emergency Alerts
 - Emergency Alert System



What has been accomplished

- Committee formed – 2012
- Public / Private partnerships
- Public Safety Outreach
- EAS Participant Outreach/Education/Buy in
- Rewrite of Emergency Alert System plan



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Where do we need to go

- Outreach
 - Continue to work with PSAPs that want to be Collaborative Operating Groups (COG)
 - Awareness and education of the processes
 - Continue to develop best practices
 - Educate and train incident commanders and emergency managers on proper procedures for activation
 - Format and content of messages
- Educate the public on the warning system and what messages from IPAWS mean



Where do we need to go

- Be ready to incorporate the following before the FCC mandates them:
 - Deaf and hard of hearing
 - Visually impaired
 - Limited English Proficiency



What are the challenges to getting there

- Getting PSAPs to become COGs
- Training emergency managers, incident commanders, dispatch personnel
- Public education will need to be
 - Ongoing and continuous to be effective



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