

Appendix B

GUIDANCE FOR ORIGINATORS OF EAS ALERTS

A. Guidance for National Weather Service Personnel

NWS personnel issue EAS Weather Alerts via the NOAA Weather Wire Service (NWWS) and on NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) using the NOAA-SAME/EAS Codes. NWS procedures should be followed relating to the transmission of the SAME/EAS Codes, the 1050 Hz Alert Tone, and the reading of the weather bulletin script.

B. Guidance for Emergency Services Personnel

The Emergency Alert System (EAS) is designed so that agencies with an emergency message need transmit that message only once, and it will be received by all area broadcasters and cable operators simultaneously. The most accessible method to do this is via the State Emergency Management Agency. In order to generate this EAS message for transmission to broadcasters and cable operators, a device called an EAS Encoder is needed. This encoder transmits by radio to local broadcasters and cable operators automatically triggering their EAS Decoders to deliver the message. It is preferred that each County EOC have an encoder to aid in positive access to EAS. Counties without an EAS Encoder can still utilize the EAS System by routing their emergency alert requests through a local designated broadcaster via a remote pickup unit or via other arrangement.

A WORD OF CAUTION: Emergency Services agencies have acquired a valuable new tool in gaining direct access to all area broadcasters and cable operators via the EAS. However, if not used prudently, there is danger of losing this tool. Broadcasters and cable operators are expecting the EAS to be used only for life-threatening emergencies. Keep in mind two things. First, some broadcasters and cable operators have their EAS Decoders set on Automatic Mode. There is no one there to screen a message and decide if it should be aired. They are depending on you to send only an EAS Alert for a very serious emergency. The first time you trigger the system for a frivolous event, you will lose the confidence of your area broadcasters and cable operators. The second thing to remember is that broadcasters and cable operators participate in the local-level EAS on a voluntary basis. No one can force them to carry your EAS Alerts. Maintaining a good relationship with local broadcasters and cable operators is key to their support to civil authorities during a crisis.

C. Guidance for Nuclear Plant and Industrial Plant Personnel

Grand Gulf Nuclear Station (GGNS):

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GGNS will follow EAS activation procedures as outlined in the Emergency Public Information Standard Operating Procedures. Activation of the EAS will continue to be at the discretion of the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency and activated by the State Emergency Operations Center.

River Bend Nuclear Station (RBNS):

RBNS will follow EAS activation procedures as outlined in the Emergency Public Information Standard Operating Procedures. Activation of the EAS will continue to be at the discretion of the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency and activated by the State Emergency Operations Center.