Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)

IPAWS Overview
What is IPAWS?

Presidential Executive Order 13407 states, "It is the policy of the United States to have an effective, reliable, integrated, flexible, and comprehensive system to alert and warn the American people....and to ensure under all conditions the President can communicate with the American people." FEMA is designated within the Department of Homeland Security to implement the policy of the United States for a public alert and warning system and has established a program office to implement IPAWS. FEMA, as well as numerous public and private industry partners, are working together to transform the national alert and warning system to enable rapid dissemination of authenticated alert information over as many communications pathways as possible.

Vision: Timely Alert and Warning to American People in the preservation of life and property.

Mission: Provide integrated services and capabilities to local, state, and federal authorities that enable them to alert and warn their respective communities via multiple communications methods.

Strategic Goals:

Goal 1 – Create and maintain an integrated interoperable environment for alert and warning

Goal 2 – Make alert and warning more effective

Goal 3 – Strengthen the Resilience of IPAWS Infrastructure

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What will IPAWS do?

IPAWS will allow the President of the United States to speak to the American people under all emergency circumstances, including situations of war, terrorist attack, natural disaster, or other hazards.

IPAWS will build and maintain an effective, reliable, integrated, flexible, and comprehensive alert and warning system.

IPAWS will enable Federal, State, territorial, tribal, and local alert and warning emergency communication officials to access multiple broadcast and other communications pathways for the purpose of creating and activating alert and warning messages related to any hazard impacting public safety and well-being.

IPAWS will reach the American public before, during, and after a disaster through as many means as possible.

IPAWS will diversify and modernize the Emergency Alert System (EAS).

What will IPAWS do? (Continued)

IPAWS will create an interoperability framework by establishing or adopting standards such as the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP).

IPAWS will enable alert and warning to those with disabilities and to those without an understanding of the English language.
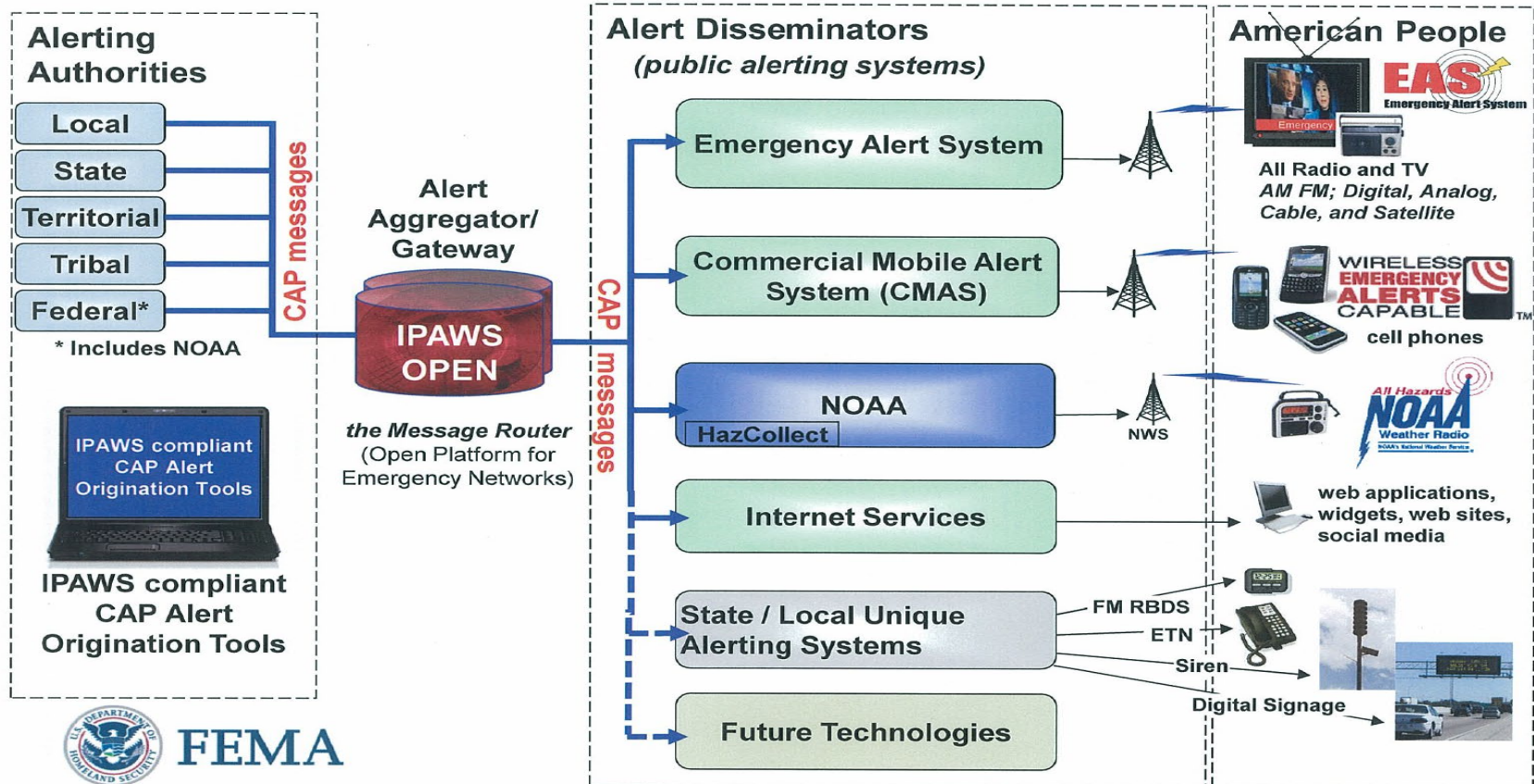
IPAWS will partner with NOAA to enable seamless integration of message transmission through national networks.

IPAWS Architecture

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

Alerting Authorities

- Local
- State
- Territorial
- Tribal
- Federal*

* Includes NOAA

IPAWS compliant CAP Alert Origination Tools

IPAWS compliant CAP Alert Origination Tools

FEMA

CAP messages

Alert Aggregator/ Gateway

IPAWS OPEN

the Message Router
(Open Platform for Emergency Networks)

CAP messages

Alert Disseminators
(public alerting systems)

- Emergency Alert System
- Commercial Mobile Alert System (CMAS)
- NOAA — HazCollect
- Internet Services
- State / Local Unique Alerting Systems
- Future Technologies

American People

EAS — Emergency Alert System

All Radio and TV
AM FM; Digital, Analog, Cable, and Satellite

WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERTS CAPABLE™
cell phones

NWS

All Hazards NOAA Weather Radio

web applications, widgets, web sites, social media

FM RBDS
ETN
Siren
Digital Signage

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Who can sign up for IPAWS?

Public officials are granted the authority to alert the public of emergency situations through Federal, State, and local laws. Specific authorities may be designated in state Emergency Alert System, AMBER Alert, or other emergency operations plans. Generally, eligible organizations will be:

Federal Agencies
State Government Organizations
Local Government or Public Safety Organizations
Tribal Governments
Territorial Governments

Other public or private sector organizations may be eligible depending on their public safety mission.

Current Public Alerting Authorities in Texas

Texas currently has:

  52 Texas counties are authorized public alerting authorities
  15 Texas cities are authorized public alerting authorities
  3   Federal military installations
  2   Councils of Governments (Panhandle Regional Planning Commission &
        Capital Area Council of Governments)
  1   Special political subdivision – Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport

Several cities serve as the alerting authority for their respective county as well as the city.

Steps to Become an IPAWS Public Alerting Authority

Step 1: Select compatible IPAWS alerting system. A list of vendors who offer
compatible systems is available at
https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/25916

Step 2: Apply for a Memorandum of Agreement with FEMA. The application
can be found at: https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/112266

Step 3: Apply for Public Alerting Permissions:

Alerting authorities that want to send alerts to the public through IPAWS must
complete an application defining the types of alerts they intend to issue and the
extent of their geographic warning area. The application for IPAWS public alerting
authority will be provided when you apply for a COG MOA, along with contact
information for a designated state reviewer. In order to ensure consistency with state
and tribal public alerting plans, the application must be reviewed and signed by a
designated state official or tribal leadership before it is submitted to FEMA.

Application for IPAWS Public Alerting Authority

COG Name: _____ **COG ID#:** _____

Geographic Area of Responsibility: [List the names(s) and FIPS Codes(s) for your geographic area of responsibility. *Attach additional pages as needed.*]

Name:

_____

_____

_____

_____

FIPS Code:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Event Codes: [Check all that apply for WEA, EAS, and NWS dissemination systems.]

Event Code	Event Description	WEA	EAS	NWS
ADR	Administrative Message	N/A	☐	☐
AVA	Avalanche Watch	N/A	☐	☐
AVW	Avalanche Warning	☐	☐	☐
BLU	Blue Alert	☐	☐	☐
CAE	Child Abduction Emergency	☐ *State Only	☐	☐
CDW	Civil Danger Warning	☐	☐	☐
CEM	Civil Emergency Message	☐	☐	☐
DMO	Practice/Demo Warning	☐	☐	☐
EQW	Earthquake Warning	☐	☐	☐
EVI	Evacuation Immediate	☐	☐	☐
FRW	Fire Warning	☐	☐	☐
HMW	Hazardous Materials Warning	☐	☐	☐
LAE	Local Area Emergency	☐	☐	☐
LEW	Law Enforcement Warning	☐	☐	☐
NUW	Nuclear Power Plant Warning	☐	☐	☐
RHW	Radiological Hazard Warning	☐	☐	☐
RMT	Required Monthly Test	☐	☐	☐
RWT	Required Weekly Test	☐	☐	☐
SPW	Shelter In-place Warning	☐	☐	☐
TOE	911 Telephone Outage Emergency	☐	☐	☐
VOW	Volcano Warning	☐	☐	☐

The undersigned has reviewed this application. The public alerting authorities requested by the applicant are consistent with the state Emergency Alert System plan, AMBER Alert System plan, or other operational public warning plans.

For the State of _____   Agency: _____

Signature: _____   Date: _____

Name: _____   Title: _____

Email: _____   Telephone: _____

Steps to Become an IPAWS Public Alerting Authority

Note: Cities in Texas who wish to apply for public alerting authority must submit alert & warning coordination procedures/protocols on how they will coordinate their alerts & warnings with their neighboring jurisdictions with their alerting authority application.

Why?

To reduce the duplication of warnings & alerts that could be issued by multiple jurisdictions in high density population centers that vary in their messaging, causing confusion and miscommunication;

To notify neighboring jurisdictions that an alert or warning is going to be issued in the event of bleed over (alert & warnings received by residents outside of the jurisdiction's boundaries or area for which the warning or alert was issued.

Steps to Become an IPAWS Public Alerting Authority

Step 4: Complete IPAWS Web based training:

FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) offers the independent study course, IS-247a 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

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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. Contact your vendor for any software support questions.

Once training is completed, submit the training certificates to IPAWS. A copy of the executed MOA will be returned to the sponsoring organization.

A digital certificate will be generated in order to configure the IPAWS compatible software system.

After completing these steps, the organization will have the capability to exchange standards-compliant messages and content between COGs.

NOTE: FEMA requires the web based training, FEMA IS 247.a to be completed and the completion certificate submitted with your signed MOA.

Steps to Become an IPAWS Public Alerting Authority

Step 5: Complete the application process:

Once the public alerting application and web-based training is complete, specific alerting permissions will be implemented in IPAWS-OPEN.

At that point the individual members specified by the COG will be able to send alerts and warnings in the geographically prescribed areas and for the event codes indicated on the Application for Public Alerting Authority.

Initial functionality includes the ability to access and send alerts through:

Emergency Alert System (EAS)

National Weather Service (NWS) All-Hazards Emergency Message Collection System for NWS-approved alerting authorities

Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), depending on local implementation by commercial mobile service providers

IPAWS All-Hazards Information Feed (Internet services)

Additional Optional On-line training courses:

IS-248	[Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) for the American Public](#)
IS-251	[Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) for Alerting Authorities](#)

QUESTIONS?

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