

FCC Local Area Plan

For the

**EMERGENCY  
ALERT  
SYSTEM  
(EAS)**

Communications Operations Orders

Los Angeles County  
Local Emergency Communications Committee (LECC)  
LECC Approval: July 30, 1997  
SECC Approval: September 2, 1997  
FCC Approval: July 8, 1998  
Revision 1b: 2-16-99  
**Revision 2.0 7-24-2002**

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY (CA) EAS PLAN  
COMMUNICATION OPERATIONS ORDERS  
COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS ORDER CA-LA NO. 1  
MONITORING PLAN**

1.1 There are two designated LP-1 stations for Los Angeles County:

- |    |          |          |                 |
|----|----------|----------|-----------------|
| a. | KFI (AM) | 640 KHz  | Los Angeles, CA |
| b. | KNX (AM) | 1070 kHz | Los Angeles, CA |

These stations monitor:

- |    |                   |             |                              |
|----|-------------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| a. | KFWB (AM) [PEP]   | 980 kHz     | Los Angeles, CA              |
| b. | NWR, Oxnard       | 162.55 MHz  | Mt. Wilson                   |
| c. | CLERS [State EAS] | 158.790 MHz | Santiago Peak                |
| d. | County            | 39.48 MHz   | Mt. Wilson (LA County voice) |
| e. | KROQ              | 106.7 MHz   | Burbank, CA                  |

1.2 The LP-2 and the NP station is KFWB<sup>1</sup> 980 KHz. The LP2 station will monitor:

- |    |             |            |                              |
|----|-------------|------------|------------------------------|
| a. | PEP         | Per FEMA   | Washington                   |
| b. | NWR, Oxnard | 162.55 MHz | Mt. Wilson                   |
| c. | KFI         | 640 KHz    | Los Angeles, CA              |
| d. | KNX         | 1070 KHz   | Los Angeles, CA              |
| e. | County      | 39.48 MHz  | LA County voice - Mt. Wilson |

1.3 All other stations should monitor two of the following:

- |    |           |          |                 |
|----|-----------|----------|-----------------|
| a. | KFWB (AM) | 980 KHz  | Los Angeles, CA |
| b. | KFI (AM)  | 640 KHz  | Los Angeles, CA |
| c. | KNX (AM)  | 1070 KHz | Los Angeles, CA |

Stations unable to monitor above stations may monitor, subject to confirmation  
by the Los Angeles County LECC:

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<sup>1</sup> In Part 11 PEP stations carry the designation of NP which stands for National Primary  
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- a. KROQ 106.7 MHz Burbank, CA LP2-FM
- b. KCBS-FM 93.1 MHz Los Angeles, CA LP2-FM

b.5 In addition, but not in lieu of stations listed in 1.3, the following sources are recommended monitoring assignments:

- a. KLOX/NWS 162.55 MHz Oxnard NWS via Mt. Wilson
- b. Los Angeles County 39.48 MHz LA County Voice - Mt. Wilson

b.6 The following stations have agreed to do translations as special purpose LP stations:

- a. KLAX 97.9 MHz Los Angeles, CA Spanish LP1-S
- b. KFOX/KREA 93.5 MHz Los Angeles, CA Korean LP1-K

b.7 NPR Alternate PEP source.<sup>2</sup>

- a. KUSC 91.5 MHz Los Angeles, CA PEP Alt LP-2

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<sup>2</sup> NPR has agreed to distribute PEP warnings and tests. Individual station and the LP stations are encouraged to consider this as a supplemental PEP source.

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY (CA) EAS PLAN  
COMMUNICATION OPERATIONS ORDERS  
COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS ORDER CA-LA NUMBER 2  
EVENT CODES**

In addition to the Event Codes that the Federal Communications Commission requires stations to carry under Part 11 of their Rules, the following Event Codes will be carried as indicated below by all participants in this FCC Local Area:

2.1 All stations have agreed to carry:

CEM	Civil Emergency Message
NUW	Nuclear Power Plant Warning
RHW	Radiological Hazard Warning
SPW	Shelter in Place Warning (Civil Warning only)
HMW	Hazardous Materials Warning (Civil Warning only)
EVI	Evacuation Immediate (Civil Warning only)
FFW	Flash Flood Warning
HUW	Hurricane Warning
HWW	High Wind Warning
SVR	Severe Thunderstorm Warning
TOR	Tornado Warning
TSW	Tsunami Warning

2.2 Voluntary recommendations for all stations:

TOE	911 Telephone Outage Emergency
CAE	Child Abduction Emergency
LEW	Law Enforcement Warning
LAE	Local Area Emergency
CFW	Coastal Flood Warning
DSW	Dust Storm Warning
EQW	Earthquake Warning
FRW	Fire Warning
TOA	Tornado Watch
FLW	Flood Warning
WSW	Winter Storm Warning

2.3 Other EAS codes listed below are not to be relayed by broadcast stations under any circumstances. These codes will be used only by the National Weather Service, The State

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of California, Los Angeles County, and other non-broadcast origination points. These codes are for special tests such as the annual State Duck-Cover-And-Hold Drill, and verification of proper equipment operation with LP and other entities.

DMO	Practice/Demonstration Warning
ADM	Administrative Message
NMN	Network Message Notification

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY (CA) EAS PLAN  
COMMUNICATION OPERATIONS ORDERS  
COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS ORDER CA-LA NUMBER 3  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE**

3.1 All National Weather Service WARNING messages and EAS ACTIVATION REQUESTED messages will be transmitted over the National Weather Radio (KLOX/NWS), Oxnard, on 162.55 MHz.

3.2 LP1 and LP2 stations are required to monitor the NWR frequency serving their area of responsibility. All LP station and CATV control points are urged to also monitor the local NWR transmitter.

3.3 The NWR transmitter format for Alert Requests is:

- a. The digital header repeated three times
- b. The NWR receiver alert tone
- c. The EAS attention signal
- d. The audio message
- e. The digital EOM repeated three times

3.4 While no verbal portion of an EAS message can exceed 120 seconds due to the recording limitation of EAS decoders, the National Weather Service is aware that broadcast stations will be more likely to respond to relaying Alert requests if messages are kept as short as possible.

The Local Emergency Communication Committee (LECC) recommends that all audio messages for EAS Activation requests should ideally run no longer than 45 seconds, and will hopefully be closer to 30 seconds and direct listeners/viewers to tune to a source of local live broadcast news for further information.

3.5 If the NWR transmitter is off the air, the NWS Oxnard Office will telephone the LP1 stations in the following order. KFI, KNX, KFWB

3.6 NWS Emergency Procedure

- a. The NWS representative will identify as \_\_\_\_\_ , meteorologist with the National Weather Service, Oxnard.
- b. The LP station will record the message immediately. The station should ask for an audio level check prior to recording. The words, **“Level, level, level, level, level”** should be spoken at the same level the meteorologist will use during the message.

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c. The station will give the meteorologist notice that they are ready to begin recording. The message should be preceded with a countdown. When the recording starts, the meteorologist will begin the message as follows:

**“ 5 - 4 - 3 - 2 -1. This is the National Weather Service Office serving Los Angeles County. We are requesting activation by all broadcasters of the Emergency Alert System for a (nature of the request).”**

**[COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS ORDER CA-LA NUMBER 3, CONTINUED](#)**

**MESSAGE TEXT (30-45 SECONDS that ends with request for people to tune to a source of live local broadcast news for further information)**

**“This concludes this Emergency Alert System message from the National Weather Service, Oxnard, California.”**

*d. Note: The meteorologist should remain silent at the end of the message until the person doing the recording comes back on the line. If there is a problem with the recording process, or the meteorologist deems it necessary, repeat the recording process.*

3.7 Once a month, NWS will call the designated hot line numbers for the LP stations listed in this plan to verify that current hot line phone numbers are correct. If a hot line number fails to work, NWS will call the LECC Chair, or a vice-chair to obtain a valid number.

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY (CA) EAS PLAN  
COMMUNICATION OPERATIONS ORDERS  
COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS ORDER CA-LA NUMBER 4  
HOW TO ACTIVATE AND TRANSMIT A LOCAL BROADCAST**

4.1 Message Relay procedure from codes decoded from EAS Decoders:<sup>3</sup>

b. If the event code coincides with mandatory codes shown on COO Number 2, LP1's will relay the alert as soon as possible using the posted instructions for their respective EAS Encoders.

b. You may relay any event code received at your discretion, with the understanding that emergency alert information declines rapidly in value to the public as seconds pass by.

4.2 From calls received via a telephone call to your hot line number:

7 The station receives a telephone call from the National Weather Service, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the County of Los Angeles, and the Federal Government, or from a government or Weather Service official from an adjacent Operational Area who is authorized to initiate a request.<sup>4</sup>

b. Transfer call to recording station for EAS. Start recorder. Ask the caller to recite their validation code. Set level on recorder based on sound recorded during validation, or from subsequent level check.

c. Tell the caller to "count down and go." Supervise the recording process. Listen for quality assurance and for mistakes. Stop recording after caller recites the message closing, "This concludes this Emergency Alert System activation request from (Name of the Agency) serving Los Angeles County."

d. Inform caller if retake is needed or, if all is OK.

e. Program EAS terminal per station's posted instructions to activate from a phone call.

f. Cue up recorded message.

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<sup>3</sup> This is the standard and preferred method for EAS activation that has the highest chance for success.

<sup>4</sup>Such a call would only be initiated if the government agency calling cannot originate an EAS Alert through normal channels.

g. Halt current program on the air as soon as possible. Play or live announce:

**“We interrupt this program to activate the Emergency Alert System for Los Angeles County.”**

h. Activate EAS encoder. Play recorded message. Play or read the following after the message outcue and EOM digital bursts:

**COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS ORDER CA-LA NUMBER 4, CONTINUED**

**“This concludes Emergency Alert System programming. All broadcast and cable systems can now resume normal programming.”**

i. Resume normal broadcasting. Repeat essential warning information as often as necessary for the duration of the warning. The suggested interval is 5 to 10 minutes.

j Log the alert per your station’s posted instructions. All EAS alert broadcasts must be reported to the FCC in Washington in accordance with Part 11 of the FCC’s Rules.

4.3 Any broadcast station may activate the EAS and read the requested message upon receipt of any EAS message through their EAS decoders marked “ACTIVATION REQUESTED” from the National Weather Service or the County of Los Angeles. The LA LECC PLAN is based on voluntary agreement that such messages will be relayed without delay or any additional notification, authorization or permission.

4.4 All news and program personnel shall be trained both as to the means and need to place EAS Alert Requests on the air without delay. Posted instructions specific to the LA LECC Plan should be posted at all control points where EAS activation can be done.

4.5 On-air personnel shall not ad-lib, interpret, abbreviate or alter any EAS test or EAS Alert Request message, not enhance such messages with music or sound effects in any way.

4.6 Further, tests, Warnings or Alert Requests may not be set to music, sung, or receive enhancement or alteration by means of echo, or any other types signal processing or production aid(s) that would drastically alter the meaning or immediacy of the message.

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY (CA) EAS PLAN  
COMMUNICATION OPERATIONS ORDERS  
COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS ORDER CA-LA NUMBER 5  
LA COUNTY EMERGENCY PROCEDURES FOR EAS ACTIVATION**

5.1 If the County voice transmitter is off the air, the County will telephone the LP1 stations in order. Should the County be unable to reach KFI, then NWS will call KNX. Should NWS, Oxnard be unable to reach KFI or KNX, they will call the KFWB hot line number.

5.2 Sheriff's Department Emergency Procedure

a. The Sheriff's Department representative will identify as *Name/Title*, with the Los Angeles County *Origination Point*. The three designated Origination *Points* are the Sheriff's Communications Center, Sheriff's Headquarters Bureau, or the Emergency Operations Center.

b. The LP station will record the message immediately. The station should ask for an audio level check prior to recording. The words, "Level, level, level, level, level" should be spoken by the *authorized County employee* at the same level to be used when the message is read.

c. The station will give the *authorized County employee* notice that they are ready to begin recording. The message should be preceded with a countdown. When the recording starts, the Sheriff's Department Representative shall begin the message as follows:

**" 5 - 4 - 3 - 2 -1. This is the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. We are requesting activation by all broadcasters of the Emergency Alert System for a (nature of the request)."**

**MESSAGE TEXT (30-45 SECONDS)**

**"This concludes this Emergency Alert System message from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department."**

c.5 Note: The *authorized County employee* should remain silent at the end of the message until the person doing the recording comes back on the line. If there is a problem with the recording process, or the meteorologist deems it necessary, repeat the recording process.

5.4 Once a month, the Sheriff's Department Communications Center will call the designated hot line numbers for the LP stations listed in this plan to verify that current hot line phone numbers are correct. If a hot line number fails to work, the Sheriff's Department will call the LECC Chair, or a vice-chair to obtain a current valid number.<sup>5</sup>

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY (CA) EAS PLAN  
COMMUNICATION OPERATIONS ORDERS  
COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS ORDER CA-LA NUMBER 6  
AUTHENTICATION PROCEDURE  
STATE OR OTHER AUTHORIZED WARNING CENTERS**

6.1 The party receiving a request to activate the Emergency Alert System shall use the verification system called out in the **Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Procedures for EAS Activation.**

6.2 The Sheriff's Department Activation Point may call the party requesting activation back for additional verification or for more details before an EAS Activation is carried out.

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY (CA) EAS PLAN  
COMMUNICATION OPERATIONS ORDERS  
COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS ORDER CA-LA NUMBER 7  
REQUIRED MONTHLY TEST**

7.0 The Coordinated Required Monthly Test (Event Code RMT) within the Los Angeles County Operational Area must be carried by all broadcast stations as well as CATV firms when the FCC's Rules for Cable go into effect. The RMT may be carried simultaneously with the Sheriff's Department origination as monitored on 39.48 MHz., or with the originating LP1 stations, or delayed by no more than **60 minutes** [Federal Communications Commission Part 11.61 (a)(1)] as revised effective May 16, 2002.

7.1 The Required Monthly Test for the Los Angeles County Operational Area will be conducted as **follows effective September 1, 2002:**

Daytime: Last Tuesday of odd-numbered months at **10:25 a.m.**  
Nighttime: Last Tuesday of even-numbered months at **4:25 a.m.**

7.2 The Required Monthly Test (RMT) will originate from the Sheriff's Communications Center or one of the alternate EAS control points with a pre-recorded message voiced by the Sheriff.

7.2.1 APPROVED **TEXT:**

**This is a test of the Emergency Alert System. This is Sheriff Lee Baca. I am speaking to you from the Los Angeles County Emergency Operations Center where we manage response to major emergencies. Many broadcasters have agreed to deliver emergency information that will help you understand what has happened during emergencies and what you need to do. When you hear a real EAS Warning or Alert, you should immediately tune to one of those radio or TV stations. This concludes this test of the Emergency Alert System.**

The entire Required Monthly Test (RMT) will take approximately 48 seconds.

7.3 An annual Duck - Cover - and - Hold earthquake drill will originate using the EAS "demonstration" or "network message" designator (DMO or NMN) on the first Tuesday of every April at 10:30 a.m. In conjunction with the annual Statewide Duck - Cover - and - Hold earthquake drill. Stations choosing to participate should

run this event promptly at 10:30 a.m.

7.4 The State Emergency Operations Center or a designated alternate will transmit a monthly Closed Circuit test that may be carried by any station in addition or in lieu of that station's weekly test. This test can never replace a station's Required Monthly Test (RMT).

**COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS ORDER CA-LA NUMBER 7, CONTINUED**

f. The Monthly State EAS test is conducted on the first Tuesday of each month except April. The daytime test in odd-numbered months is at **TBA**. The nighttime test in even numbered months is at **TBA**.

7.6 The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department will from time to time conduct closed circuit tests of the EAS equipment on the County voice channel, 39.48 MHz. These tests ensure the operational status of originating equipment for the Required Monthly Tests and actual EAS Activation Requests, and may originate from any of the three EAS control points. These tests will use either the DMO (demonstration) or NMN (network Message) message designators

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY (CA) EAS PLAN  
COMMUNICATION OPERATIONS ORDERS  
COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS ORDER CA-LA NUMBER 8**

**Purpose:**

**LA County Hotline Numbers  
For Government Use to Coordinate EAS activity  
Emergency activation procedures**

**These numbers are not to be published in Plan copies for  
the broadcast and cable industries or posted publicly**

	KNX
	KFI
	KFWB
	KCBS-FM (will change soon)
	KROQ
	KLAX
	KFOX
	KUSC
	National Weather Service, Oxnard

# LOS ANGELES COUNTY (CA) EAS PLAN COMMUNICATION OPERATIONS ORDERS

## APPENDIX 1

### GLOSSARY OF TERMINOLOGY

**AMBER Plan** A Plan adopted locally or statewide that provide for an EAS Alert message to use the public to find abducted children. For more information contact the National Center for Missing sand Exploited Children (NCMEC). (xxx) xxx-xxxx

#### **Attention Signal**

The two tone 853 /960 Hertz tone now shortened to eight seconds that was the old EBS signal that activated decoders and alerted the public to stand by for emergency information.

**CLERS** California Law Enforcement Radio System. The State's radio system dedicated to public safety/law enforcement purposes that run of the State's microwave backbone. Local CLERS VHF channels provide State EAS audio to broadcasters.

**CLETS** California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System. CLETS terminals can be permissioned to originate EDIS messages. Please see EDIS definition below.

**EDIS** Emergency Digital Information Service. The "government wireless service" provided by the State and carried locally on 39.32 MHz. that is used for longer form text emergency information, along with a website at [[www.edis.ca.gov](http://www.edis.ca.gov)]. Plans are underway for EDIS to be linked with EAS to help TV stations put text on screen faster to better serve the needs of the hearing impaired. EDIS is also a key system to reinforce and support the LA County AMBER Plan.

**ENN** The Emergency News Network. A term used to describe the use of voice, video, and data to provide not only alerts, but also the ongoing story of any major emergency; from response to recovery much as NASA does with its NASA Mission Control.

**EOB** The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Emergency Operations Bureau. The EOB staffs and maintains the County Emergency Operations Center

(EOC), and is responsible for much of the planning required for emergency response within the County of Los Angeles.

**EOC** Emergency Operations Center, 1275 North Eastern Avenue. Where Los Angeles County assesses damage, manages resources and issues emergency public information during declared emergencies

**EOM** The End Of Message FSK “digital” signal sent at the end of an EAS message that tells EAS decoders an alert sequence has ended. Without an EOM, decoders will not return to the normal program mode for a two-minute time out period.

**FIPS Code** Federal Information Processing Identifier. A unique five digit number for every county, borough, parish or census district in the US and its possessions.

**LECC** Local Emergency Communications Committee. The LECC is the broadcast industry component of EAS that works closely with local government entities to form a partnership to make EAS work.

**Header** The Frequency Shift Keying (FSK) code “Digital” fields of the EAS protocol: sync, ORG, EVENT, LOCATIONS (FIPS) Duration, Date/, Time Stamp, and Station ID.

**OEM** The Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management whose offices are at the LA County EOC. It is the civilian component of County emergency management that reports directly to the County Chief Administrative Officer.

**OES** At the State Level, the OES (Office of Emergency Services) reports to the governor’s office regarding emergency response and recovery issues.

**Recovery** The period following “Response” when restoration of services and systems to what passes for “normal” begins. Recovery can actually begin before the “Response” phase is over.

**Response** The period before “Recovery” in an emergency when the initial issues of life safety, rescue and damage assessment are addressed.

**SHB** Sheriff’s Headquarters Bureau. The Public Information arm of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department.

**SEMS** Standardized Emergency Management System. Protocol used by State of California to encourage common emergency management practices, procedures and terminology. Covers a wide range of issues from standardized fire department hose connections to common titles for emergency responders. Local governments must be trained in and use SEMS to qualify for funds reimbursement from the State for expenses related to emergencies.

**SCC** Sheriff's Communications Center, 1277 North Eastern Avenue.

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY (CA) EAS PLAN  
SIGNATURES OF APPROVAL AND CONCURRENCE**

**Required Local Approvals**

Richard A. Rudman, Chair  
Los Angeles County FCC Local Emergency Communications Committee

Richard Rudman  
Signature

Date : July 3, 1997

James Messall, Co-Chair for Cable Television  
Los Angeles County FCC Local Emergency Communications Committee

James Messall  
Signature

Date July 30, 1997

Todd Morris, Meteorologist-In-Charge  
National Weather Service, Oxnard, California

Todd Morris  
Signature

Date: July 11, 1997

**Required State & Federal Approval**

Stanley E. Harter, Executive Director  
California State Emergency Communications Committee

Stan Harter  
Signature

Date September 2, 1997

**Local, State & Federal Approvals, 2002 Revisions**  
**LA EAS LECC Executive Committee**  
**John Paoli, LECC Chair/AM Chair**  
**Scott Mason, FM Chair**  
**John Russell, TV Chair**  
**Richard Rudman, Exec. Dir.**

Date: