

# **FCC EAS PLAN**

## **For**

### **Modoc County**

### **California**



Revised - Submitted  
to  
California Emergency Management Agency  
Western Nevada/Eastern California  
Emergency Alert System  
January, 2013

**EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM (EAS) - FCC LOCAL AREA PLAN  
Modoc County, California**

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**Emergency Alert system (EAS)**

The EAS is a warning system to provide the public with immediate messages that affect life and property. An EAS warning may be for a few blocks or widespread –parts of a city, sections of specified areas (such as a county or parts of adjoining counties); or a part or all of a region; several states or the entire nation.

The EAS is a way to provide emergency information quickly by radio, television and cable licensees to the public. Radio, television and cable entities cooperate on a voluntary, organized basis, to provide Local and State warnings, while Federal warnings are mandatory.

**Types of Warnings**

In California, the EAS is used for warnings of an immediate action, such as storm warnings, earthquakes actually occurring, evacuations of areas due to an incident such as a hazardous spill, or other event requiring immediate actions.

Watches and statements of the National Weather Service (NOAA) do not require such immediate action. In California (by agreement\*) the EAS may not carry these messages, even though FCC rules provide for them. (\*It's an option of the State and Local Area Communications Committees to determine the events for which the EAS will be used.)

However, the NOAA may use its Weather Radio Specific Message Encoder (WRSAME) for the alerts for NOAA watches and statements on 162 MHz National Weather Radio (NOAA) channels. In that way the public can hear them on radio monitoring equipment even though they are not on the EAS system. For weather radio units consult local commercial firms. The Cal EMA EDIS system also carries the NWA watches and statements.

**Local Area EAS Plan**

A Local Area EAS Plan is a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) mandated document for the organization and implementation of the EAS for areas into which a state may be divided. The number of areas depends on state size and geography as well as radio and television coverage. (A remote area may receive signals from an adjoining state more consistently and stronger than from stations in the state it is within. Such areas may be assigned to the EAS plan of the adjoining state by agreement between the states.) In Modoc County, the Surprise Valley area responds to Western Nevada/Eastern California Operational area out of Reno, Nevada.

The Local Area plan provides the organized guideline for broadcasters and cable TV operators, and how they and local government officials use the EAS to provide information to the public. Procedures, and this plan, include the National Weather Service (NOAA).

The Local Area Plan was updated in 2013 with input from all of the local stations and the General Manager of Local Primary 1 (LP1) approved the plan. All the local stations are cosigners to indicate their concurrence. It was submitted to Cal EMA, EAS and Western Nevada/Eastern California EAS.

The following broadcast organizations are within the local area:

KCNO 94.5 FM and KCFJ AM                      Alturas, CA 96101  
Bill Hansen, General Manager

KLAP/KDUP/KVYA FM                              Cedarville, CA 96104  
K22LE-D/K24KX-D TV                              Cedarville, CA 96104  
Jeff Cotton, Director, OpenSkyRadio Corp.

KALT FM    Alturas, CA 96101  
Matt Warren, General Manager

Charter Communications                          Alturas, CA 96101  
Chris Samples, System Technician

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**Statement**

This is the Emergency Alert System (EAS) Plan for Modoc County California FCC Local Area. This plan is a part of the State of California Emergency Alert System Plan, which replaced the Emergency Broadcast System plans and procedures.

This Plan consists of a cover page, an introduction and Communications Operation Orders COO#1-COO#7. Additionally, the COO's are followed by the signature page and a revision log page. Amendments, when signed by the LECC, and approved by the SECC, are incorporated herein by reference thereto.

The operational date of this plan is the date it is approved and signed by the SECC Chair. Once final signature from Cal EMA (State Office of Emergency Services) is complete, the LECC Chair shall cause a copy to be distributed to all stations and cable entities. Copies for public information shall not contain "hot-line" numbers or confidential codes.

**Broadcasters and Cable Stations**

The Federal Information Process Service (FIPS) assigns a five digit code to areas within the United States. The Emergency Alert System uses FIPS codes. The Modoc FCC Local Area includes all broadcasters and cable television companies in Modoc County, are part of the Northern California Emergency Alert System, except for the Surprise Valley-extreme eastern Modoc County, which is included in the Western Nevada-Eastern California Operational Area. The LP1 station is KCFJ, 570 AM/KCNO 94.5 FM in Alturas. The Surprise Valley station in Cedarville area, KDUP, 88.1 FM, still monitors the Alturas LP1.

**FIPS CODE**

**COUNTY**

**06049**  
**06035**

**Modoc, CA**  
**Lassen, CA**

Nevada

California

Washoe (2)  
Carson City (8)  
Douglas (13)  
Storey (9)  
Lyon (11)  
Mineral (15)  
Pershing (3)  
Churchill (10)

Lassen (1)  
Plumas (4)  
Sierra\* (5)  
Nevada\* (6)  
Placer\* (7)  
Dorado\* (12)  
Alpine\* (14)  
Mono (15)

**Eastern Modoc, including Surprise Valley (17)**

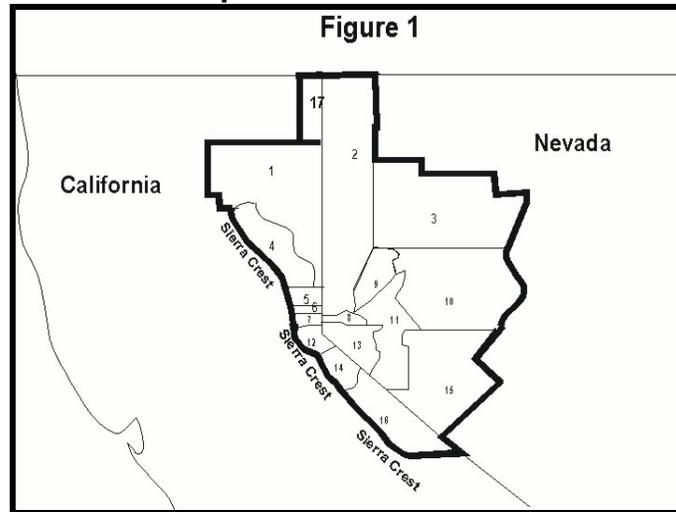
Northern Inyo County (16)

- areas east of the Sierra Nevada Crest

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**Modoc County, California**

**Map of FCC Local Area**



## COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS ORDER # 1

### MONITOR PLAN

**1.1 The LP1 station is KCNO 94.5 MHz and KCFJ 570 KHz. It has the capability to broadcast in a power outage. It monitors:**

- a. KVIP 98.1 MHz (translator is (101.7 FM) Redding, CA
- b. KKOH 780 KHz Reno, NV
- c. NOAA \* There is no reception due to our remote area.
- e. CLERS 155.700 MHz Mt. Likely
- \* As of 2013, this system has yet to be implemented.
- f. EDIS Ku Band 12GHz OASIS RES

**1.2 LP2 station - NONE**

**1.3 All LP stations and CATV control points must monitor two of the following:**

\*In Modoc county that is Charter Cable.

- a. KCNO 94.5 MHz Alturas, CA
- b. KCFJ 570 kHz Alturas, CA
- c. KKOH 780 kHz Reno, NV
- d. KVIP 98.1 MHz Redding, CA
- e. NOAA Not available in this area
- f. CLERS 155.700 Mt. Likely (See note 1.4 below)

**1.4 Modoc County CLERS:**

The development of this program is under consideration and as of 2013; currently it is not implemented.

**1.5 Common Alert Protocol (CAP)**

47 C.F.R. § 11.35(a): "EAS Participants are responsible for ensuring that EAS Encoders, EAS Decoders, Attention Signal generating and receiving equipment, and Intermediate Devices used as part of the EAS to decode and/or encode messages formatted in the EAS Protocol and/or the Common Alerting Protocol are installed so that the monitoring and transmitting functions are available during the times the stations and systems are in operation.

**§ 11.52 EAS code and Attention Signal Monitoring requirements.**

With respect to monitoring EAS messages formatted in accordance with the specifications set forth in § 11.56(a)(2), EAS Participants' EAS equipment must interface with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) to enable (whether through "pull" interface technologies, such as Really Simple Syndication (RSS) and Atom Syndication Format (ATOM), or "push" interface technologies, such as instant messaging and email the distribution of Common Alert Protocol (CAP)-formatted alert messages from the IPAWS system to EAS Participants' EAS equipment.

## COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS ORDER # 2

### EVENT CODES

**2.1 National Event Codes** for messages required to be carried by all stations and entities

EAN	Emergency Action Notification Message
EAT	Emergency Action Termination Message
NIC	National Information Center Message
NPT	National Periodic Test
RMT	Required Monthly Test
RWT	Required Weekly Test

**2.2 Local Event Codes:** It is recommended that all participants utilize these codes.

CAE	Child Abduction Emergency
CEM	Civil Emergency Message
EVI	Evacuation Immediate
FFW	Flash Flood Warning
SVR	Severe Thunderstorm Warning
TOR	Tornado Warning

**2.3 Event Codes** for messages that are optional:

Different counties have different required and optional codes. These were updated in 2013.

AVA	Avalanche Watch
AVW	Avalanche Warning
BZW	Blizzard Warning
CAE	Child Abduction Emergency (AMBER)
CDW	Civil Danger Warning
CFA	Coastal Flood Watch
CFW	Coastal Flood Warning
DSW	Dust Storm Warning
EQW	Earthquake Warning
FFA	Flash Flood Watch
FFS	Flash Flood Statement
FFW	Flash Flood Warning
FLA	Flood Watch
FLS	Flood Statement
FLW	Flood Warning
FRW	Fire Warning
HMW	Hazardous Materials Warning
HWA	High Wind Watch
HWW	High Wind Warning
LAE	Local Area Emergency
LEW	Law Enforcement Warning

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NUW	Nuclear Power Plant Warning
RHW	Radiological Hazard Warning
SMW	Special Marine Warning
SPS	Special Weather Statement
SPW	Shelter in Place Warning
SVA	Severe Thunderstorm Watch
SVR	Severe Thunderstorm Warning
SVS	Severe Weather Statement
TOA	Tornado Watch
TOE	911 Telephone Outage Emergency
TRA	Tropical Storm Watch
TRW	Tropical Storm Warning
VOW	Volcano Warning
WSA	Winter Storm Watch
WSW	Winter Storm Warning

**2.4 EAS administrative and test message codes**, as listed below, are NOT to be relayed.

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

**2.5 Location Codes: Federal Information Process Service (FIPS)**

<b>FIPS CODE</b>	<b>COUNTY</b>
<b>06049</b>	<b>Modoc, CA</b>
<b>06035</b>	<b>Lassen, CA</b>

It is recommended that stations broadcast the FIPs code when transmitting.

## COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS ORDER # 3

### NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

*Contains confidential data not for public release*

- 3.1 All National Weather Service WARNING messages and EAS ACTIVATION REQUESTED messages** will be transmitted over the weather radio (NOAA). **Monitoring NOAA is not available for this area. An alternate plan is internet monitoring through NOAA, Medford, Oregon and Cal EMA through phone or internet lines.**
- 3.2 LP1 and LP2 stations are required to monitor the NOAA frequency** serving their area of responsibility. All LP station and CATV control points are urged to also monitor their NOAA transmitter to provide a redundant path.
- 3.3 The NOAA transmitter carries three (3) digital headers**, the NOAA receiver alert tone, the EAS attention alert tones, the audio message, and the three (3) digital End-Of-Message (EOM) transmissions. No verbal message to exceed 115 seconds in length. However, the broadcasters in this Local Area expect them to be confined to 45 seconds or less. (EAS terminals will not record any EAS activation longer than 120 seconds. EAS receiving terminals will not record any activation message from any source that does not receive the EOM inside 120 seconds.)
- 3.4 In the event the NOAA transmitter is off the air, the NOAA office shall telephone the LP1 station at 530-233-3570 (24hrs) KCNO/KCFJ office phone 530-233-3903 (alternate station phone) Alt: 530-640-0732 KCNO General Manager**

**On receipt of said telephone call KCNO shall callback NOAA at this *confidential* number before proceeding: 1-800-483-4573\*\***

Once the callback is complete, NOAA will proceed thusly:

- a. Identify yourself. State the reason you are activating the Emergency Alert System. The broadcast station shall be prepared to immediately record your message. You may be asked for a level; say "Level level level level level."
- b. On receiving the "go-ahead", say: "5, 4, 3, 2, 1. This is the National Weather Service office in \_\_\_\_\_ . We are activating the Emergency Alert System for a (nature of the warning)."

Read the message. (It must not exceed 115 seconds) (and end it with:) "*This concludes this Emergency Alert System message from the National Weather Service.*"

Remain silent until the broadcaster tells you it has been received okay.

## COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS ORDER # 4

### FOR LP1 AND LP2 STATIONS TO ACTIVATE EAS AND TRANSMIT A LOCAL BROADCAST

#### 4.1 From the EAS terminal.

- a. If the Event Code coincides with one shown on the COO Number 2 you will put it on the air as soon as possible using the prescribed EAS terminal instructions.
- b. You may broadcast any other event Code message at your discretion.

#### 4.2 From a telephone call.

- a. You receive a telephone call from a person or agency authorized to initiate the Emergency Alert System.  
(Authentication procedure - where required - is in COO-7. Radio or teleprinter transmissions from the NOAA, another EAS station, local, or state government do not require authentication.)
- b. Start recorder to record message.  
Tell the telephone caller to "countdown and go."  
Caller's out-cue is "This concludes this broadcast from the (Agency) in (location).
- c. Program your EAS terminal with the appropriate FIPS delivery and Event Codes.
- d. Cue up message (if on external recorder) for broadcast.  
Fade out the program in progress and announce:  
**"We interrupt this program to activate the Emergency Alert System for the Modoc County area. Important instructions will follow."**
- e. Activate your EAS terminal.  
Read or play the message.  
Then announce:  
**"This concludes the Emergency Alert System bulletin. All broadcast stations and cable systems may now resume normal operations." \*\* Do not hang up until broadcaster can verify that the message has been recorded. State the time of the message.**
- f. Resume normal broadcasting. Do **not** editorialize or comment on the incident as it may be construed as an official announcement. Repeat the highlights of the warning every 5-10 minutes, if possible, during the period of warning.

#### 4.3 Any broadcast station may activate the EAS and read the message, upon receipt of any "ACTIVATION

REQUESTED" bulletin from the National Weather Service without delay or additional notification, authorization or permission.

#### 4.4 All news and program personnel shall be familiar with the necessity to place programming on the air with the

least delay. Periodic training should be conducted.

#### 4.5 On-air personnel shall not ad-lib, interpret, abbreviate or alter any test or broadcast. Tests shall not be sung, set to music, include music, echo and/or other electronic alteration or production aids.

## COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS ORDER # 5

### FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO ACTIVATE THE EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

- 5.1 Agencies and/or officials, specified in 5.5, are authorized to activate the Emergency Alert System by following these steps:

**Write out** (do not dictate) the **WARNING** message to be broadcast by all AM, FM, TV and Cable TV stations in this plan. This is the message **you** will read, as **you** will be the announcer when it is broadcast. (See 5.2 below.)

- a. **Contact for the LP1 Station: KCNO/KCFJ**  
**530-233-3570 (24 hours) (office)**  
**530-233-3903 (alternate station phone)**  
**530-640-0732 (KCNO General Manager 24/7)**

b. The California High Patrol (CHP) has been designated as the law enforcement agency responsible for coordinating and issuing multi-regional EAS alerts for child Abductions at the request of the local investigative authority. CHP EAS child Abduction Alert activations will be authorized by the CHP Emergency Notification and Tactical Alert Center (ETAC) and forwarded to the respective CHP Communications Center for action.

c. Modoc County Sheriff may issue local Child Abduction Emergency EAS Alerts at the request of law enforcement agencies in Modoc County. Agencies requesting such activation shall ensure that all the proper 'AMBER" criteria are met:

- 5.2 **Authorized officials must use the following format to activate the EAS: "This is (Name/Title) of (Organization). I request that the Emergency Alert System be activated for the Modoc County Area because of a (description of the emergency)."**
- 5.3 **Authorized officials and LP1 personnel will determine the transmission details (i.e., live or recorded, immediate or delayed).**
- 5.4 **EAS message originators shall limit their messages to 2 minutes; recommended time is 90 seconds**
- 5.5 **The following authorities are authorized to activate the EAS for this Local Area**

**Modoc County Sheriff or designee**  
**Modoc County Deputy Director of Emergency Services or designee**  
**California Highway Patrol, Susanville Area Commander**  
**Other agencies must go through Modoc Communications Center – 911 Dispatch**

- 5.6 **The California Highway Patrol has authority to transmit Child Abduction Emergency EAS alerts through their dispatch centers.**

5.7 **When EDIS is available, the originating official(s) shall enter text of the Warning** bulletin into the EDIS system as quickly as possible so that all television and CATV companies will have the message for clear text viewing by the hearing impaired. EDS data is also used to expand on the EAS information. Some stations supplement EAS messages with the data from EDIS as an adjunct for the hearing impaired and to better serve listeners and viewers since EDIS includes NOAA watches and statements. This additional information can be especially important to alternative language stations.

## COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS ORDER # 6

### REQUIRED MONTHLY TEST

The Coordinated Monthly Test (Event Code RMT) within every Local Area is required to be carried by all broadcast stations and CATV firms. It may be carried simultaneously with the originating LP1 station, or delayed by no more than 60 minutes. [FCC Part 11.61(a) (1)(i)].

**6.1 The Required Monthly Test in this FCC Local Area is conducted by the LP1 station:**

a. Daytime: 1st Thursday 10:30 AM, January, March, May, July, September, November

b. Nighttime: 1st Thursday 9:05 PM, February, April, June, August, October, December

- 6.2.1 The nighttime Required Monthly Test will originate from the LP1** as above and is for retransmission by all broadcast stations and CATV companies within the time limit prescribed by the FCC.
- 6.2.2 The daytime RMT will originate from the LP1** as above and is for retransmission by all broadcast stations and CATV companies within the time limit prescribed by the FCC.
- 6.3 The Required Monthly Test will take about 45 seconds or less.** The message may vary slightly in length and the content will be dependent on the subject chosen for the time of year and prevalent threats or potential hazards.
- 6.4 Although the LP1 station currently has no means of receiving the following, it is here noted for future reference.** The State Emergency Operations Center or an alternate will transmit a monthly test that may be carried by any station in addition to the station's weekly test or in lieu of its weekly test, but never in place of a Local Area's Required Monthly Test.
- 6.4.1 The monthly State EAS test is conducted on the first Tuesday of every month unless** otherwise notified. It is transmitted statewide at about 10:20 a.m. and may be rebroadcast at anytime within 60 minutes thereafter. It will use the ADM or DMO Event Code --- not an "RMT".
- 6.4.2 The annual State Earthquake Drill - Duck, Cover and Hold - which is normally on the first Tuesday of April,** shall be carried by all stations where possible.

## COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS ORDER # 7

### AUTHENTICATION BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

- 7.0 No authentication codes are used in this Local Area Plan.** However, this Order is in the Plan for use should the situation change in the future.  
(Change can be affected by reissuing COO-7 as an amendment rather than rewrite the entire Plan.)
- 7.1 An authenticator code is NOT required** for use by those authorized to activate the Emergency Alert System by telephone, FAX or other unsecured transmissions.
- 7.2 The CLERS, EDIS, weather wire or other hard copy media likewise do NOT require authentication.**
- 7.3 Local message template:**

#### ORIGINATING OFFICIAL'S MESSAGE FORM

Prepare your message on this form before calling the LP-1 station. Follow the operator's instructions to record your message. DO NOT hang up until the operator confirms that your message has been recorded, the EAS equipment has been programmed and you have left a callback telephone number.

Countdown: "**Three...Two...One...**"

**This is** (name and agency )

**There is a** (state nature of the emergency)\_\_\_\_\_

**In the Area of** (state area affected)

\_\_\_\_\_ **And is Expected to Last** (how long the situation will continue)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Residents Are Advised To** (what people should do or not do)

**Until** (when emergency is over or when more information will be available)

\_\_\_\_\_ **This Is** (name and agency) \_\_\_\_\_ **For The Western Nevada/Eastern California Emergency Alert System.**

Do not say anything else until the station operator comes back on the line. The operator will confirm that the message has been recorded and ask for information on the event, location and expected duration to program the EAS equipment. Give the operator a telephone number where you or another emergency official can be contacted for updates. If you cannot reach the LP-1 station, call the LP-2 station, etc. Primary telephone contact numbers for the LP stations are shown below:

**LP -1 KCNO 94.5 MHz and KCFJ 570 KHZ**

**530-233-3570 or 24/7 530-640-0732 (General Manger)**

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Modoc County, California  
Signatures of Concurrence and Approval  
(4 separate pages)

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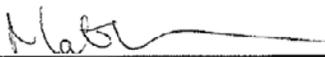
SIGNATURES OF CONCURRENCE AND APPROVAL

  
Bill Hansen, General Manager, KCNO/KCFJ,  
Local Emergency Communications Committee

1-23-13  
Date

  
Jeff Cotton, Director, Open Sky Radio Corp.

2/1/13  
Date

  
Matt Warren, General Manager, KALT,

1/23/13  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Poindexter, Modoc County Sheriff  
Director of Emergency Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
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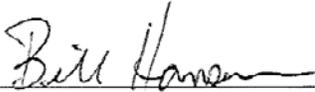
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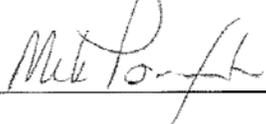
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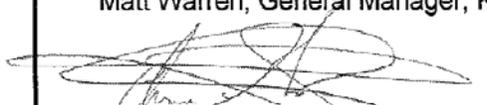
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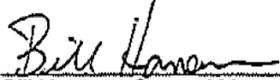
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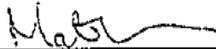
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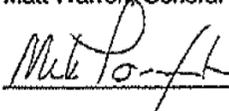
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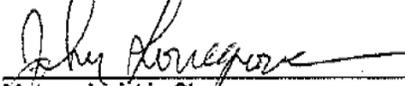
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\_\_\_\_\_, Chairman  
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J. Cotton  
Jeff Cotton, Director, Open Sky Radio Corp.

2/1/13  
Date

Matt Warren  
Matt Warren, General Manager, KALT,

1/23/13  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Poindexter, Modoc County Sheriff  
Director of Emergency Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Meteorologist in Charge  
National Weather Service, Medford, OR

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_, Chairman  
State Emergency Communications Committee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State of California  
Governor's Office of Emergency Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Abbinne Abbott  
Western Nevada/Eastern California  
Nevada Emergency Alert System

2/19/2013  
Date

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