



**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Emergency Alert System (EAS) is used to inform the public of a pending emergency, disaster, or crisis. **Providing reliable and redundant methods to activate the EAS for emergency messages and tests is crucial to public safety in Nevada.**

**What is the EAS Plan?**

This EAS Plan describes the procedures authorized individuals must use to disseminate critical, life-saving information to the public during a time of crisis. It includes methods for emergency managers, law enforcement, and public safety officials (Authorized Originators) to activate the EAS for emergency messages and tests. It also contains guidance for broadcasters, cable operators, and internet protocol television providers (Participants) to maintain their EAS equipment in a state of readiness, compliant with Federal Communications Commission (FCC) requirements, to keep their audiences informed during a disaster or emergency.

**Communication during Emergencies**

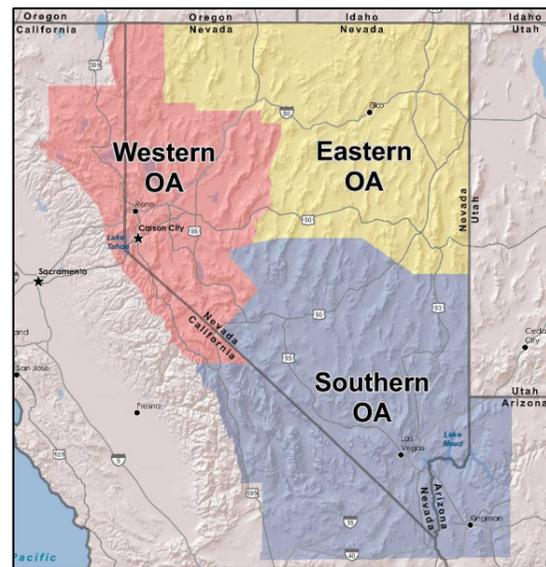
The State of Nevada is susceptible to a wide variety of natural, technological, and human-caused emergencies and disasters. These emergencies and disasters may occur with or without warning or time for advance planning and may disrupt normal communications such as landline telephone services, Internet services, and cell phone service. Under these circumstances, broadcast radio and television become the only means officials will have for communicating with the public.

**Nevada Emergency Alert System Operational Areas**

The FCC established the Nevada EAS Operational Area based on a combination of broadcast signal coverage and coverage offered by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) Weather Radio System. The state is divided into three Local Operational Areas, also based on broadcast and NOAA Weather Radio coverage.

**EAS Process**

Overall responsibility for EAS activations within each authorized jurisdiction rests with individual agencies as defined in this EAS Plan. EAS messages are limited to two minutes, so agencies are encouraged to integrate a Public Information Officer (PIO), public relations specialist, or information management specialist into their emergency communications plans to provide additional information to the media and the public. The Nevada State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC) and the Nevada Broadcasters Association can provide EAS training on request.



**The Nevada EAS should only be used for brief and specific messages to alert or warn the public across wide areas about situations that present an immediate and extraordinary threat to life or property, and in cases where government, law enforcement, or public safety agencies want affected citizens to take immediate and specific protective actions.**



# Nevada Emergency Alert System Plan Executive Summary

**EAS at the National Level**

- Allows the President to provide emergency alerts to the public quickly and efficiently.
- This is done through the release of an Emergency Action Notification (EAN).
- It is important to note that all broadcasters are required to broadcast EANs and participate in national-level testing.

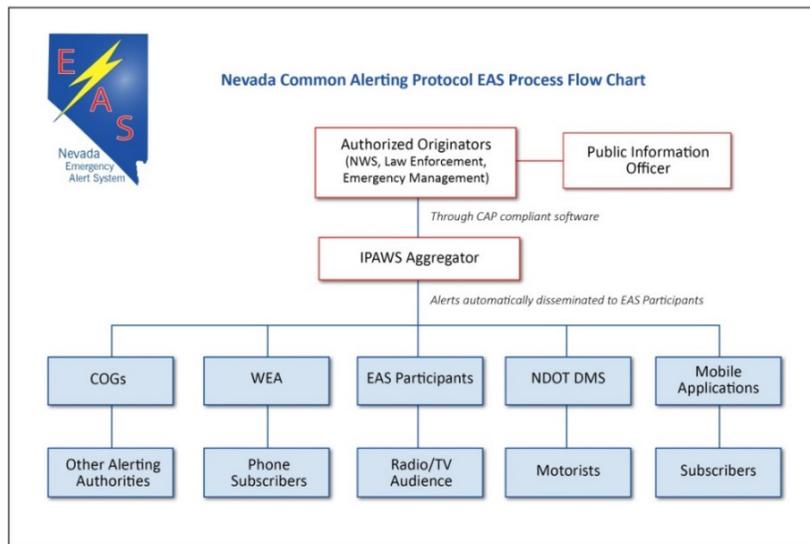
**EAS at the State Level**

- Lead agency: Nevada Division of Emergency Management (NDEM).
- State level EAS alerts are meant for use during area-wide emergencies or statewide AMBER alerts. The state may also originate EAS alerts for communities that do not have the ability to generate their own, or that have equipment problems.

**EAS at the Local/Tribal Level**

- Local/tribal partners in Nevada will activate the EAS according to the protocols outlined in their Emergency Operations Plans or Emergency Public Warning and Public Information Plans.
- Local alerting officials in Nevada have the capability to use both Legacy and CAP platforms for origination of emergency alerts.

Though local/tribal level Authorized Originators in Nevada have the capability to use both Legacy and Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) platforms to originate emergency alerts, **CAP is the preferred method of issuing EAS warnings in the Nevada EAS Operational Area** and is consistent with the federal Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS). Use of CAP is important because EAS Participant staff may not be available for a Legacy activation and the message may not reach the public. Additionally, television stations may not carry the Legacy message because the text generated by the EAS equipment will not match the audio message, creating confusion for the television audience. To avoid these potential issues, EAS Originators should use CAP for EAS activations, following the instructions provided by their product vendor. CAP also allows Authorized Originators to issue Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) to WEA-capable cell phones within range of the alert's designated cellular towers.





### EAS Tests

EAS Participants conduct regular statewide and local tests according to procedures described in 47 Code of Federal Regulations 11 and the monthly and weekly schedules published by the SECC. State and local emergency management, law enforcement, and public safety agencies will participate in the testing process by originating these tests.

Yearly Tests	REQUIRED Monthly Tests	REQUIRED Weekly Tests
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National EAS tests will be conducted yearly. These tests will be launched by FEMA from Washington, D.C. on a pre-announced day and time.</li> <li>The tests will propagate across the country through both the CAP and Legacy EAS platforms.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Required monthly tests are required by law.</li> <li>Required monthly tests duplicate the process for an actual EAS activation. The tests consist of the header codes, a dual tone audio signal, a voice message, and the End of Message tone.</li> <li>Required monthly tests in odd months must occur between 8:30 a.m. and local sunset time, and tests in even months must occur between local sunset time and 8:30 a.m.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All broadcasters and cable system operators are required by law to perform a required weekly test.</li> <li>These tests consist of transmitting EAS header codes and the End of Message tone. Required weekly tests do not include any voice message.</li> <li>Tests are required to be conducted on different days of the week, and at different times of the day.</li> </ul>

### Public Responsibility

During emergencies and disasters, EAS messages provide life-saving information to the public. Through EAS, these messages are provided directly from law enforcement, public safety, and emergency managers whose expertise determines the levels of danger in an event and what protective actions the public can take. Members of the public should be alert for EAS messages and follow the instructions they contain. Local media will provide more detailed information and instructions so the public should be knowledgeable of reliable local media sources of news and information.

It is the responsibility of every member of the public to stay alert and informed and be prepared for a disaster or emergency. In a crisis, it could take 72 hours to a week to restore essential services and provide proper medical care. Local emergency management agencies, the American Red Cross, and FEMA all have information on preparing for an emergency.



## Plan Update Process

The 2015 update of the Nevada EAS Plan was developed through a collaborative and engaged planning process that involved both Authorized Originators and Participants from across the State of Nevada. The plan was updated as part of the Statewide Public Warning/Public Information Initiative with funding provided through the Nevada State Homeland Security Commission. The process was supported by a Statewide Task Force and informed by stakeholder participation in a series of regional workshops held in each of the plan's Operational Areas.

## Plan Organization

The plan is organized into the following sections:

- **Chapter 1 – Introduction.** Presents plan authorities, purpose, and scope; establishes key policies for implementation of the Nevada EAS; describes how the plan is organized and how it is related to other key planning documents.
- **Chapter 2 – Situation and Planning Assumptions.** Provides a brief history of EAS; discusses the Nevada EAS in the context of the state's unique profile and hazards; describes the three Nevada EAS operational areas (Western, Eastern, Southern); presents plan assumptions and limitations.
- **Chapter 3 – The EAS Process.** Describes the components of the Nevada EAS including both Legacy and CAP platforms; discusses how the coordination will occur with key partners.
- **Chapter 4 – Roles and Responsibilities.** Describes key roles and responsibilities of local, state, and federal partners in the Nevada EAS.
- **Chapter 5 – EAS Tests.** Discusses the types and frequency of EAS tests including weekly, monthly, and national tests.
- **Chapter 6 – Plan Implementation and Maintenance.** Provides guidance on regular review and maintenance of this plan; discusses training and exercise activities that will support statewide alert and warning capabilities.

## What's New?

The 2015 update of the Nevada EAS Plan includes the following changes and key updates:

- Addition of CAP to EAS functions
- Update of Event Codes requested by the National Weather Services (NWS)
- Addition of FEMA's National EAS testing program
- Update based on FCC ordered rule changes and additions including information regarding visual display of emergency information

