

Walton County Department Agenda Request

Department Name: **EMA**

Department Head/Representative: **Carl Morrow**

Meeting Date Request: **July 2nd 2024**

Has this topic been discussed at past meetings? **No**

If so, When? **N/A**

TOPIC: **IPAWS Annex**

Wording For Agenda: **Integrated Pulic Alert and Warning System**

This Request: Informational Purposes Only Needs Action by Commissioners* **Yes**

*What action are you seeking from the Commissioners? **Aproval**

Department Comments/Recommendation: **Need this annex aproved to continue with IPAWS alerting authority**

Additional Documentation Attached? **Yes**

Is review of this request or accompanying documentation by the County Attorney required? **Yes**

If so, has a copy of the documentation been forwarded to County Attorney? **Yes**

Date forwarded to County Attorney: **June 11th 2024**

Has the County Attorney review been completed? **Yes**

If this request involves the expenditure of county funds, please answer the following:

Approved in current budget? **N/A**

Budget information attached? **N/A**

Comments: **No Funds needed**

Purchasing Department Comments:

County Attorney Comments:

Chairman's Comments:

**WALTON COUNTY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**INTEGRATED PUBLIC ALERT
AND WARNING SYSTEM
(IPAWS) ANNEX**

Executive Summary

In times of crisis, the people of Walton County continually demonstrate resilience. Timely and effective emergency alert and warning messages can add to that resilience by providing information that citizens can use to make informed decisions and take action to save lives and reduce property losses, effectively reducing the impact of disaster and speeding community recovery. Effective alerts and warnings can help prevent hazards from becoming disasters.

Walton County Emergency Management strives to improve public safety through the rapid dissemination of emergency messages to as many people as possible over as many communication devices as possible before, during, and after a disaster. To accomplish this, Walton County has adopted the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) to augment existing public alert and warning technologies. The purpose of the Walton County Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) Annex” is to formalize Walton County processes for communicating with the general public during local and state disasters or emergencies.

IPAWS integrates new and existing public alert and warning systems and technologies to provide state and local alert and warning authorities a range of capabilities and dissemination channels, thereby increasing the likelihood that a given message will reach people in an affected area. IPAWS provides state, local, territorial, and tribal governments with the capability to integrate their alert and warning systems with the national alert and warning infrastructure. Walton County continues to leverage IPAWS’ capabilities to expand the delivery of alert and warning information, increase resilience of local systems, and support protection, prevention, mitigation, response, and recovery efforts.

The “Walton County IPAWS Annex” details the roles and responsibilities of alerting authorities and public safety officials at the state, local, and federal level. It also documents the criteria for issuing public alerts and warnings, types of alerts and warnings, governance, training, and technical requirements for activating alerts. This Plan also addresses best practices for writing effective alert and warning messages, alerting technology, system security and testing, and public education to ensure the citizens and visitors of Walton County understand how to access, use, and respond to information from public safety officials.

Letter from the Walton County Emergency Management Director

The citizens and visitors of Walton County are the foundation of all our partnerships and the primary reason we work to integrate an effective, reliable, flexible, and comprehensive public alert and warning system. In times of crisis, Walton County continually demonstrates resilience. Therefore, it is essential that we keep the public informed with real-time, up-to-date information to allow them to take the necessary actions to ensure their safety and minimize damage to property.

The Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) is designed to improve public safety through the rapid dissemination of emergency messages to as many people as possible over as many communications devices as possible. To accomplish this, Walton County has adopted and implemented IPAWS to serve as a complementary alerting system and ensure alert and warning infrastructure in Walton County is resilient, so that no matter what the crisis, the public will receive life-saving information. IPAWS will not replace our current Civic Ready Emergency Notification and Weather Warning System.

Effective this date, the "Walton County IPAWS Annex" is hereby approved.

David Thompson	Chairman	Walton County BOC
Print Name	Title	Organization
Signature		Date

Record of Changes

All changes are to be annotated on the master copy of the “Walton County Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) Annex”. Should the change be significant in nature, updates shall be made to applicable web pages. If not, changes will be reviewed and incorporated into the Annex during the next scheduled update.

This Annex shall be maintained and kept current by all parties on the following schedule:

- Updates can occur at any time based upon the change of state or federal guidance.
- A cursory review of the Annex will be performed on an annual basis. Changes will be annotated on the Record of Change sheet.

The review and revision of procedures will follow critiques of actual emergency or disaster operations and/or exercises where deficiencies were noted.

Date Posted	Change	Page / Paragraph / Line	Recommending Agency / Individual

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Purpose

This document provides policy and procedures agreed upon by Walton County Emergency Management and will permit authorized users to issue emergency information, instructions, and warnings to the general public of Walton County by activating the alert and warning systems within Walton County.

Authority

Authoritative information for this plan is garnered from the following policies and legislations:

- {Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) in Georgia, Georgia Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security, dated July 12, 2012.
- Georgia Emergency Management Act of 1981, Ga. Code §38-3-1 *et seq.*, Georgia Code Title 38 - Military, Emergency Management, And Veterans Affairs, Chapter 3 - Emergency Management. Articles 1 through 3 of this chapter may be cited as the 'Georgia Emergency Management Act of 1981.'
- State of Georgia Emergency Alert System (EAS) Plan, dated February 21, 2013.
- Georgia Emergency Operations Plan 2013
- Presidential Memorandum, "Emergency Alert System Statement of Requirements", September 15, 1995;
- Executive Order 13407, Public Alert and Warning System, June 26, 2006
- Warning, Alert, and Response Network (WARN) Act, October 13, 2006
- National Security Presidential Directive- 51(NSPD-51)/Homeland Security Presidential Directive-20 (HSPD-20), "National Continuity Policy", May 9, 2007
- National Incident Management System, December 2008
- Presidential Policy Directive/PPD-21 "Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience", February 12, 2013¹.
- Executive Order "Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity", February 12, 2013
- National Preparedness Report, March 2013
- National Response Framework, Second Edition, May 2013

1 Presidential Policy Directive/PPD-21, Implementation of the Directive (6); PPD-21 "revokes Homeland Security Presidential Directive/HSPD-7, Critical Infrastructure Identification, Prioritization, and Protection, issued December 17, 2003. Plans developed pursuant to HSPD-7 shall remain in effect until specifically revoked or superseded.

Integrating Public Alert and Warning Systems

Walton County has adopted and implemented the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS), which facilitates rapid and reliable delivery of alert and warning information over multiple communication pathways before, during, and after an emergency in the preservation of life and property. Walton County incorporates IPAWS into the county's existing structure through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), which governs the relationship between the county and state-level Collaborative Operating Groups (COGs) and FEMA. IPAWS provides Walton County with the capability to integrate alert and warning systems with the national alert and warning infrastructure. Consequently, IPAWS increases the capability and options available to state and local officials by which life-saving information can be distributed during a crisis.

Walton County authorities have chosen to use IPAWS and integrate local alerting and emergency response systems that use Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) standards with the IPAWS infrastructure. Beginning in 2011, the initial IPAWS capabilities were deployed providing public safety authorities at all levels of government with integrated access to send alerts through EAS, Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards, internet applications, sirens, road signs, and other unique local technologies, as well as being able to seamlessly incorporate emerging and future alerting channels and communications technologies.

Walton County may provide public safety officials with resources to assist them as they adopt CAP, incorporate IPAWS, and ensure their communities understand how to access, use, and respond to public alert and warning information. New alert and warning technologies, particularly alerts to personal cellphones, will only be effective if the public understands the avenues over which alerts are delivered and trusts the emergency messages being sent. Local public safety officials strive to ensure emergency communication plans and tools incorporate the latest technologies, can be leveraged to strengthen communication infrastructure, enhance information sharing and situational awareness, and provide the public with critical information.

Roles and Responsibilities

Local

All disasters and emergencies are locally oriented. While first responders are gearing up to respond to the initial aftereffects of an incident, it is an inherent responsibility of local officials to keep the public informed of what actions the public needs to take to protect themselves. These could include evacuation orders, location of points of distribution (for food, water, medicine, etc.), move to higher ground, shelter in place guidance, take cover, etc. Communicating these instructions to the public is the primary purpose of IPAWS. Because local officials have a better understanding of the situation, the immediate actions that are being taken, and potential adverse impacts of the incident, it is incumbent upon these officials to rapidly and effectively communicate to the public what is going on and what needs to be done.

State of Georgia

Recognizing that all disasters are local, the primary responsibility of the state will be to facilitate the implementation of IPAWS into the emergency notification network. In the case of a catastrophic local, state, or regionally-defined event, the state will provide a resilient and comprehensive alert and notification capability.

- GEMA will be designated the COG point of contact as per the signed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with FEMA.
- GEMA will form a working group comprised of applicable statewide stakeholders to bring together the necessary technical and operational expertise from the private sector, non-profits, local jurisdictions, state agencies, and the federal government with the goal of defining policy and procedures leading to the implementation of IPAWS across the state.
- GEMA will sign all COGs for all local and State Agency Alerting Authorities.
- GEMA will conduct coordinated periodic tests of the system to ensure functionality of equipment and the network.
- GEMA will provide a backup capability for local jurisdictions' alerting authorities to issue emergency broadcasts and/or wireless on behalf of the local jurisdiction, as deemed appropriate.

In order to successfully accomplish this task, local jurisdictions will have a structure in place to provide for rapid alert and warning. Many of the tasks leading to this structure will include:

- Designating in writing, in accordance with jurisdictional procedures, no fewer than three individuals who will be the jurisdiction's alerting authorities for issuing emergency broadcasts with IPAWS following their successful completion of IS-247.A "Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)" course.
- Incorporating IPAWS into existing and future response plans and procedures as well as training and exercise events.

COGs will maintain a list of all individuals who have successfully completed the IS-247.A course and other required courses as directed by federal and state guidance. A list is included in Appendix C and will be updated on an annual basis by Walton County Emergency Management.

Immediately after alert dissemination, a copy of the alert must be transmitted to the State Warning Point by emailing commo@gema.ga.gov, and the State Warning Officer at IPAWS@gema.ga.gov.

Federal

FEMA is the lead federal agency for IPAWS coordination and implementation. FEMA ensures that the system is maintained and is operational to achieve the following:

- Build and maintain an effective, reliable, integrated, flexible, and comprehensive alert and warning system.

- 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 hazards impacting public safety and well-being.
- Reach the American people before, during, and after a disaster through as many means as possible.
- Diversify and modernize the EAS.
- Create an interoperability framework by establishing or adopting standards such as CAP.
- Enable alert and warning to those with disabilities and others with access and functional needs and to those without an understanding of the English language.
- Partner with NOAA for seamless integration of message transmission through national networks.
- Receive and authenticate alert messages, then simultaneously deliver to all IPAWS-compliant public alerting systems.
- Continue to engage the media, internet service providers, unique and local alerting system providers as well as future alert technology developers on the implementation of IPAWS.
- Ensure the required Emergency Management Institute (EMI) courses are available and updated periodically.

Authorized Use of IPAWS

IPAWS may be used to alert the public to events that pose a significant threat to life and/or property. IPAWS is a public emergency warning system, NOT a public notification system. Presidential Messages are issued by the President of the United States. AMBER Alerts are issued by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) in consultation with state AMBER coordinators. Critical weather warnings (e.g. tornados, flash floods, hurricanes, blizzards or ice storms, and dust storms) are issued by NWS.

Alerts issued by an authorized public safety agency using IPAWS may be disseminated to broadcast media (EAS), weather radios (non-weather emergency messages, or NWEM), cellphones and other mobile devices via Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), internet services, road signs, sirens, etc. Some alerts may be selected to broadcast to one alerting technology, while other alerts may be selected to go to numerous alerting technologies.

The primary capability of a WEA (cellphone message) is to quickly announce that an event is occurring or is imminent in the geographic area in which the recipient is located. WEA messages are limited to 90 characters.

EAS (broadcasters) and NWEM (weather radio) alerts can provide more information. For example, the “Headline” element of a NWEM message may be 160 characters and the “Description + Instruction” elements have no character limit.

Types of IPAWS Messages

The types of alert messages for which Walton County Emergency Management and authorized system users will use IPAWS include:

- **Warning messages:** Warning messages are issued for those events that alone pose a significant threat to public safety and/or property, probability of occurrence and location is high, and the onset time is relatively short.
- **Emergency messages:** Emergency messages are issued for those events that by themselves would not kill, injure, or damage property, but indirectly may cause other things to happen that result in a hazard.

Authorized Walton County Emergency Management and Walton County 911 personnel can send the following event codes through IPAWS:

Event Code(s) that can be sent via WEA dissemination channel:

CEM:	Civil Emergency Message
EQW:	Earthquake Warning
EVI:	Evacuate Immediate
FRW:	Fire Warning
HMW:	Hazardous Materials Warning
LAE:	Local Area Emergency
LEW:	Law Enforcement Warning
RHW:	Radiological Hazard Warning
SPW:	Shelter in Place Warning
TOE:	911 Telephone Outage Emergency

Training Requirements

Prior to accessing the system and posting alerts, training requirements for IPAWS are as follows:

- IS-247.B course for COG point of contact (POC) and any user with alert originator responsibilities for IPAWS public alerts
<https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-247.b&lang=en>
 - The COG POC should submit all user's training certificates as part of the application process. Annually, an updated list and certificates will be sent to the GEMA/HS State Warning Officer at IPAWS@gema.ga.gov.
- IS-251.A course for COG point of contact (POC) and any user with administrative responsibilities for IPAWS public alerts
<https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-251.a&lang=en>
 - The COG POC should submit a copy of all administrator's training certificate as part of the application process. Annually, an updated list and certificates will be sent to the GEMA/HS State Warning Officer at IPAWS@gema.ga.gov

Software for Sending Alerts

A list of system developers is available on the FEMA website and indicates which vendors have completed or are in the process of developing alerting tools for use with IPAWS.

https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_alert-origination-software-providers-ipaws_102022.pdf

Walton County Emergency Management will use the existing “SOFTWARE PROGRAM NAME” to send IPAWS alerts and messages.

System Security

To ensure the joint security of the systems and the message data they store, process, and transmit, all parties participating in IPAWS agree to the terms and conditions as stated in their MOAs and the IPAWS Rules of Behavior, which can be requested at IPAWS@fema.dhs.gov.

System Tests

At the local, county, and state level, monthly tests or exercises of IPAWS will be conducted to ensure the ability to send emergency notification information across the entire network. Testing should be coordinated prior to execution to ensure appropriate rules and regulations are followed. Any impediments will be immediately identified and a resolution at the lowest jurisdictional level possible will be ascertained. It is pertinent to define which test codes will/should work for each dissemination channel depending on their existing EAS Plan.

The following system test is required for WEA messages:

- **Monthly Proficiency Demonstration** – This is a WEA message that is sent in the ‘practice mode’ of the alerting software (so the message is sent to IPAWS but is not disseminated to the public). It should NOT be sent in the live or active mode. FEMA requires you select an event code that your COG is approved to send; do not send a Required Monthly Test (RMT).

It is anticipated that the FEMA IPAWS Program Management Office (PMO) will conduct tabletop, scenario-based, and full-scale exercises of the public alert and warning systems. Where applicable, all jurisdictions will be encouraged to participate in these exercises. GEMA conducts a required monthly test to ensure that the EAS is active throughout Georgia.

Public Outreach

Writing Effective Alert and Warning Messages

How an alert/warning message is written is as important as what is written. Poorly written warnings can undermine both understanding and credibility. "Style" refers to how you write. Considerations when writing accessible and usable alert and warning messages should include:

- **Specifics:** If the message is not specific enough about the "Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?" the public will spend more time seeking specific information to confirm the risk. If necessary, be specific about what is or is not known about the hazard.
- **Consistency:** An alert/warning should be internally consistent; that is, one part of the message should not contradict another part. It should be consistent with messages that are distributed via other channels. To the extent possible, alerts/warnings should be consistent from event to event, to the degree that the hazard is similar.
- **Certainty:** Avoid conveying a sense of uncertainty, either in content or tone. Confine the message to what is known, or if necessary, describe what is unknown in certain terms. Do not guess or speculate.
- **Clarity:** Use common words that can easily be understood. Do not use technical terminology or jargon. If protective instructions are precautionary, state so clearly. Make it clear if protective instructions pertain to particular at-risk populations (e.g., elderly). If the probability of occurrence of the hazard event is less than 100 percent, try to convey in simple terms what the likelihood of occurrence is.
- **Accuracy:** Do not overstate or understate the facts. Do not omit important information. Convey respect for the intelligence and judgment of the public.

To this end, only those individuals who have successfully completed the IS-247.B course and have been officially designated by Walton County Emergency Management as an alerting authority will be provided access to the system.

Criteria for Issuing IPAWS Messages

When circumstances arise and the need for a public warning becomes necessary, the decision to send a message will ultimately be a matter of local judgment. To assist in the decision-making process the following criteria can be applied:

- Does the hazardous situation require the public to take immediate action?
- Does the hazardous situation pose a serious threat to life or property?
- Is there a high degree of probability the hazardous situation will occur?
- Do other means of disseminating the message ensure rapid delivery of urgent information?

Local Media

Local media has a desire to keep its audience informed of ongoing events. Besides their broadcasts, many have developed instant messaging systems to keep the public informed of important events through a variety of social media networks. Coordination with local media outlets is essential for the successful implementation of the “Walton County IPAWS Plan”. By making use of the media’s desire to inform its audience, public safety officials in Walton County have and will continue to establish relationships with the media for the passage of critical, time-sensitive, information to the public.

The challenge is that many media outlets are market-driven and are not constrained by political boundaries. In many cases, a television or radio broadcast station that covers multiple counties/parishes or state–defined regions may be physically located in a neighboring state.

Through multiple mediums, such as newspaper articles, public service announcements, town hall meetings, or other avenues that the jurisdiction has found effective, the general public will be encouraged to continue to listen to and follow officials’ guidance about what to do when a disaster occurs.

Periodically (especially after an incident occurs) the public should be canvassed as to the clarity and effectiveness of the messages that were broadcast. The responses should be reviewed to determine if any changes to the message content need to take place. The results should also be passed to the applicable state agency in order to share them for the benefit of other jurisdictions.

APPENDIX A: ACRONYMS

ACRONYM	DESCRIPTION
AWN	Alert, Warning and Notification
AA	Alerting Authority
AAR	After Action Report
ADR	Administrative Message
AO	Alert Originator
AOSP	Alert Origination Software Provider
AVA	Avalanche Watch
AVW	Avalanche Warning
BLU	Blue Alert
CAE	Child Abduction Emergency
CDW	Civil Danger Warning
CEM	Civil Emergency Message
CHP	California Highway Patrol
CMAS	Commercial Mobile Alert System
COG	Collaborative Operating Group
DBGF	Device Based Geo-Fencing
DMO	Practice/Demonstration Warning
EAS	Emergency Alert System
EQW	Earthquake Warning
EVI	Evacuation Immediate
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIPS	Federal Information Processing Standard
FRW	Fire Warning
FSLTT	Federal, State, Local, Tribal, Territorial
GEMA	Georgia Emergency Management Agency
GIS	Geographic Information System
HAZ COLLECT	All-Hazards Emergency Message Collection System
HMW	Hazardous Material Warning
IPAWS	Integrated Public Alert and Warning System
IPAWS OPEN	IPAWS-Open Platform for Emergency Networks
LAE	Local Area Emergency
LEW	Law Enforcement Warning

MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPD	Monthly Proficiency Demonstration
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NUW	Nuclear Power Plant Warning
NWEM	Non-Weather Emergency Message
NWS	National Weather Service
PAA	Public Alerting Authority
PIO	Public Information Officer
PMO	Program Management Office
RHW	Radiological Hazard Warning
RMT	Required Monthly Test
SAME	Specific Area Message Encoding
SOG	Standard Operating Guidance
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SPW	Shelter – in – Place Warning
TOE	Telephone Outage Emergency
TSS	Technical Support Services
TSSF	Technical Support Services Facility
TTS	Text to Speech
VOW	Volcano Warning
WARN	Warning Alert and Response Network
WEA	Wireless Emergency Alert

APPENDIX B: GLOSSARY

Agency Representative – A person assigned by a primary, assisting, or cooperating federal, state, territorial, tribal, or local government agency or private entity that has been delegated authority to make decisions affecting that agency's or organization's participation in incident management activities following appropriate consultation with the leadership of that agency.

Agency – A division of government with a specific function offering a particular kind of assistance. In the Incident Command System (ICS), agencies are defined either as jurisdictional (having statutory responsibility for incident management) or as assisting or cooperating (providing resources or other assistance).

Alerting Authority – Designated jurisdictional individual who is authorized to write and distribute an alert or warning.

Civil Danger Warning (CDW) – A warning of an event that presents a danger to a significant civilian population. The CDW, which usually warns of a specific hazard and gives specific protective action, has a higher priority than the Local Area Emergency (LAE) (e.g. contaminated water supply, terrorist attack). Public protective actions could include evacuation, shelter in place, or other actions (such as boiling contaminated water or seeking medical treatment).

Civil Emergency Message (CEM) – An emergency message regarding an in-progress or imminent significant threat(s) to public safety and/or property. The CEM is a higher priority message than the Local Area Emergency (LAE), but the hazard is less specific than the Civil Danger Warning (CDW).

Collaborative Operating Group – IPAWS is structured around Collaborative Operating Groups (COG). A COG is a virtual organization of alerting authorities that holds membership in IPAWS-OPEN and manages system access within that organization. When the application process is complete, FEMA will assign each agency a COG Identification number and Digital Certificate.

Disaster – The occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property, or significant adverse impact on the environment, resulting from any natural or technological hazards, or a terrorist act, including but not limited to fire, flood, earthquake, wind, storm, hazardous substance incident, water contamination requiring emergency action to avert danger or damage, epidemic, air contamination, blight, drought, infestation, explosion, civil disturbance, or hostile military or paramilitary action. For the purpose of state or federal disaster declarations, the term disaster generally falls into one of two categories relative to the level of severity and impact on local and state resources. They are: Major - likely to require immediate state assistance supplemented by limited federal resources, if necessary, to supplement intra-state efforts and resources; and Catastrophic - will require immediate and massive state and federal assistance in both the response and recovery aspects. Local government's adaptation of the definition of a disaster denotes an event which threatens or

actually does inflict damage to people or property, and is, or is likely to be, beyond the capability of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of a local jurisdiction, thereby requiring the augmentation of resources through state-directed assistance.

Emergency – A suddenly occurring and often unforeseen situation which is determined by the Governor to require state response or mitigation actions to immediately supplement local government in protecting lives and property, to provide for public health and safety, or to avert or lessen the threat of a disaster. Local government's adaptation of this definition connotes an event that threatens or actually does inflict damage to people or property, exceeds the daily routine type of response, and still can be dealt with using local internal and mutual aid resources.

Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) – In the event of a national emergency, the President will be able to use IPAWS to send a message to the American people quickly and simultaneously through multiple communications pathways. IPAWS is available to United States Federal, State, local, territorial and tribal government officials as a way to alert the public via the Emergency Alert System (EAS), Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), NOAA Weather Radio and other National Weather Service dissemination channels, the internet, existing unique warning systems, and emerging distribution technologies.

Jurisdiction – A range or sphere of authority. Public agencies have jurisdiction at an incident related to their legal responsibilities and authority for incident mitigation. Jurisdictional authority at an incident can be political or geographical (e.g., city, county, state or federal boundary lines) or functional (e.g., police department, health department).

Law Enforcement Warning (LEW) - A warning of a bomb explosion, riot, or other criminal event (e.g. a jailbreak). An authorized law enforcement agency may blockade roads, waterways, or facilities, evacuate or deny access to affected areas, and arrest violators or suspicious persons.

Local Area Emergency (LAE) - An emergency message that defines an event that, by itself, does not pose a significant threat to public safety and/or property. However, the event could escalate, contribute to other more serious events, or disrupt critical public safety services. Instructions, other than public protective actions, may be provided by authorized officials. Examples include a disruption in water, electric or natural gas service, or a potential terrorist threat where the public is asked to remain alert.

Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) – An agreement document between two or more agencies establishing reciprocal assistance to be provided upon request (and if available from the supplying agency) and laying out the guidelines under which this assistance will operate.

Mutual-Aid Agreement – Written agreement between agencies and/or jurisdictions that they will assist one another upon request, by furnishing personnel, equipment, and/or expertise in a specified manner.

National Warning System (NAWAS) – A communication system of the federal government which provides warning to the population of an attack or other national emergency. Reception is at local and state warning points.

National Weather Services (NWS) – Federal government agencies charged with weather- related reporting and projections.

Shelter in place – Take immediate shelter where you are—at home, work, school, or wherever you can take protective cover. It may also mean "seal the room"; in other words, take steps to prevent outside air from coming in.

State – When capitalized, refers to any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any possession of the United States. See Section 2 (14), Homeland Security Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-296, 116 Stat. 2135 (2002).

APPENDIX C: Walton COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AUTHORIZED USERS

The following Walton County Emergency Services staff members have completed the FEMA “Integrated Public Alert and Warning System” (IPAWS) IS-00251.a course:

Name: Carl Morrow Position: EMA Director

Name: Joseph Whelchel Position: EMA Specialist

Name: _____ Position: _____

These individuals are authorized to activate IPAWS, limited to the utilization of the following EAS codes:

CEM – Civil Emergency Message. An emergency message regarding an in-progress or imminent significant threat(s) to public safety and/or property. The CEM is a higher priority message than the Local Area Emergency (LAE).

EQW - Earthquake Warning. An emergency message warning of current or imminent earthquake activity. *(For use in the event of an earthquake measuring a minimum of magnitude 6.0 or higher.)*

EVI - Evacuation Immediate. An emergency message warning that immediate evacuation is recommended.

FRW – Fire Warning. A warning of a spreading wildfire or structural fire that threatens a populated area. *Evacuation of areas in the fire’s path may be recommended by authorized officials.*

HMW - Hazardous Materials Warning. An emergency message warning of the release of a non-radioactive hazardous material that may recommend evacuation or shelter in place.

LAE - Local Area Emergency. An emergency message that warns of a local emergency of such a nature as to threaten public safety and/or property.

LEW - Law Enforcement Warning. An emergency message warning of a criminal incident that may be of an immediate danger to people in the area.

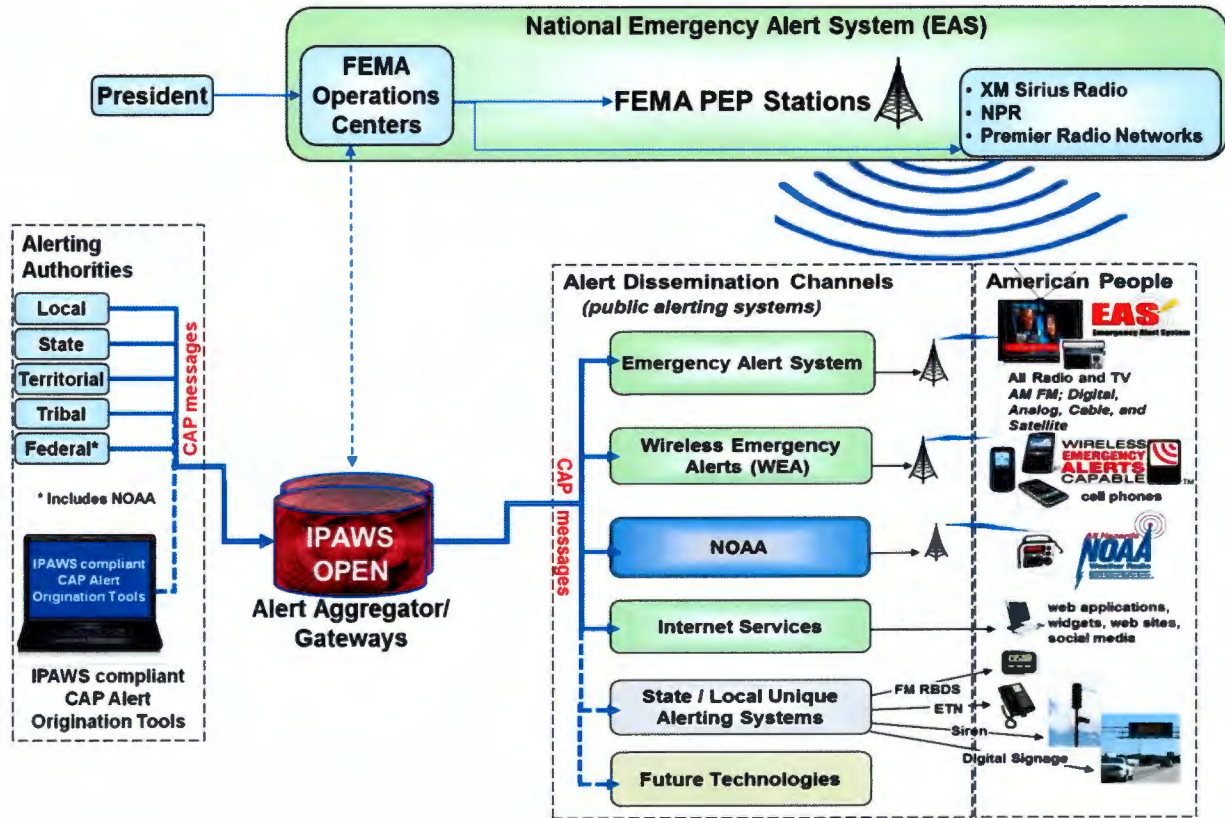
RHW – Radiological Hazard Warning. A warning of the loss, discovery, or release of a radiological hazard.

SPW - Shelter in Place. An emergency message warning of an event where the public is recommended to shelter in place.

TOE - Telephone Outage Emergency. An emergency message that notifies an affected population of a local 9-1-1 telephone network outage. *Authorized officials may provide alternative phone numbers in which to reach 9-1-1 or dispatch personnel.*

<h3>Additional Authorized Users</h3>

APPENDIX D: IPAWS ARCHITECTURE



APPENDIX E: IPAWS AND PREPAREDNESS

Public Alerts and Warnings Support Preparedness Goals

The Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) supports all preparedness mission areas: prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery efforts. IPAWS delivers coordinated, prompt, reliable, and actionable information to the whole community through the use of clear, consistent, accessible, and culturally and linguistically appropriate methods. IPAWS effectively relays information regarding any threat or hazard, as well as the actions being taken and the assistance being made available, as appropriate.

Prevention

- Communicates timely and well-coordinated information to the public through standardized procedures
- Informs the American public of pending threats, as appropriate, and provides critical instruction on the precautions necessary to protect themselves, their families, and their property
- Tailors alerts to best meet the specific needs of the audience
- Shares prompt and actionable messages with the public and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to aid in the prevention of imminent or follow-on terrorist attacks

Protection

- Protects and enhances the overall physical and logistical health of communications
- Improves the sector's national security and emergency preparedness posture with state, local, territorial, tribal, federal, international, and private sector entities to reduce risk

Mitigation

- Warns people of the risks in their community and the actions they can take to mitigate those threats
- Alerts children, individuals with disabilities or access and functional needs, diverse communities, and people with Limited English Proficiency (LEP)
- Supports and increases the number of communities that develop and share risk reduction products
- Provides the tools necessary to make decisions quickly
- Shares information obtained through coordinating activities to inform response and recovery decision making by effectively communicating threat and hazard risk analysis

Response

- Informs all affected segments of the community by all means necessary, including accessible tools, of critical lifesaving and life-sustaining information to expedite the delivery of emergency services and aid the public in taking protective actions
- Delivers credible messages to inform ongoing emergency services and the public about protective measures and other life-sustaining actions and facilitate the transition to recovery

Recovery

- Informs all affected segments of the community by all means necessary, including accessible tools
- Utilizes existing resources to promote effective recovery and support states, territories, tribes, federal, and other jurisdictions affected by a disaster
- Promotes effective recovery, particularly for those incidents that are large-scale or catastrophic
- Provides a flexible structure that enables disaster recovery managers to operate in a unified and collaborative manner
- Manages expectations throughout the recovery process and ensures the public has a clear understanding of available assistance and their roles and responsibilities
- Supports the development of state, local, tribal, territorial, and federal government communications plans