

**Appendix III-3**

**DELAWARE COUNTY  
PUBLIC WARNING SYSTEM**

***EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM (EAS) PLAN  
FOR  
DELAWARE COUNTY, NEW YORK***

**PURPOSE**

1. To meet Federal guidelines set down for a plan by each county to be established by January 1, 1997.
2. To have a plan to alert the citizens of the affected areas of Delaware County of a natural or technical (including man made) disaster.
3. To give advanced warning to potentially affected citizens on what steps should be taken to prevent injuries or deaths from occurring.

**AUTHORITY**

Title 47 U.S.C. 161, 154 (1) & (o), 303 (r), 524 (g) & 606; and 47 C.F.R. Part II, FCC Rules & Regulations, Emergency Alert System

**OBJECTIVE**

The objective of this plan is to document the steps to take for the proper notifications to the sending agency (National Weather Services or media resources) to notify the citizens of Delaware County of an impending emergency whether it be natural or technical (man made) to prevent injury or death.

This document will utilize certain aspects of the Delaware County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and the Hazardous Materials Response Annex in order to properly activate the EAS. This plan contains procedures for local officials and/or the National Weather Service to transmit emergency information to the public during a local emergency using the EAS.

This document is intended to supplement existing procedures in the EAS New York State Plan as promulgated by the State Emergency Communications Commission. Acceptance of or participation in this plan shall not be deemed as a relinquishment of program control and shall not be deemed to prohibit a broadcast or cable licensee from exercising her/his independent discretion and responsibility in any given situation. Stations originating emergency communications shall be deemed to have conferred rebroadcast authority. The concept of management of each broadcast station and cable system exercising discretion during the broadcast of emergency instructions to the general public is provided by FCC

rules.

### **WHO CAN ACTIVATE THE PLAN**

1. President
2. Governor
3. SEMO
4. County Executive and/or Director of Emergency Services
5. National Weather Service
6. Media (radio, TV, cable) with authorization by one of the above.

### **AUTHENTICATION**

1. An authentication procedure will be established by the County Board of Supervisor Chairman and will be used in order to activate the EAS System:

Code words will be established for tests and emergencies shall be used.

2. A return phone call to the appropriate number shall be made to verify the activation for emergencies.

### **HAZARDS WHICH REQUIRE PLAN ACTIVATION**

1. Hazardous materials incidents which require notification of residential areas, private industries, or municipalities (including schools) for evacuation or shelter-in-place.
2. Natural disaster (notification from National Weather Service probable).
3. Any other major emergency where public would need to be notified.

### **COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE**

1. Communications with the National Weather Service will be for the following reasons:
  - a. A test of the Emergency Alert System
  - b. An actual emergency where the system needs to be activated.
2. Communications will be by the following means:
  - a. High band radio - SEMO frequency
  - b. Regular telephone

- c. NYSPIN (Delaware County Sheriff and Emergency Services)
- d. Cellular phone
- e. Packet radio
- f. High band radio - local government

**DEFINITIONS**

1. Emergency - A situation posing an extraordinary threat to the safety of life and property. Examples are tornadoes, floods, earthquakes, icing conditions, heavy snows, widespread fires, discharge of toxic gases, widespread power failures, industrial explosions, civil disorders and radiological emergencies, etc.
2. Designated Local Government Officials - The person or persons designated by the state and local government as specified in CEMP.

**SAMPLE MESSAGES**

1. Hazardous Materials

Delaware County Executive has announced that an emergency condition exists at (insert area) and orders the evacuation of all persons living or working in Response Zone 1. Response Zone 1 includes...

2. Weather

The National Weather Service has issued a:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tornado Warning             | <input type="checkbox"/> Tornado Watch             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Severe Thunderstorm Warning | <input type="checkbox"/> Severe Thunderstorm Watch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flash Flood Warning         | <input type="checkbox"/> Flash Flood Watch         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Marine Warning      | <input type="checkbox"/> Flood Watch               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lakeshore Warning           | <input type="checkbox"/> High Wind Warning         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Winter Storm Warning        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blizzard Warning            |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flood Warning               |  |

For the following counties in New York State

- |                                   |                                 |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greene   | <input type="checkbox"/> Otsego |                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chenengo | <input type="checkbox"/> Broome | <input type="checkbox"/> Delaware |

The (WARNING/WATCH) is in effect until (TIME AM/PM)

(BRIEF, short-fused information as to the location and movement of storms, communities to be affected and description of hazard.)

Stay tuned to local media or NOAA Weather Radio for more information and further updates on this WATCH/WARNING

Notes: This message should take no longer than 45 seconds to broadcast.

When completed, please initial this sheet and place on clipboard.

Initials:

## Activation of EAS In Emergencies

### **WARNING OF ENDANGERED POPULATIONS**

1. Emergency warnings may be received at the Public Safety Building Communication Center through NYSPIN on a 24 hour basis and the statewide EAS system from SEMO.
2. Warnings and information are disseminated to the public over the Emergency Alert System (EAS). EAS is the "voice" of emergency public information.
3. The primary EAS program control station serving Delaware County is established in the CEMP.
4. Notification of the public residing within an area exposed to a disaster will be accomplished by public address systems of local police and fire vehicles or door-to-door notification in rural and urban areas.
5. Special institutions such as schools, hospitals, nursing homes, major industries and places of public assembly will be notified individually. Arrangement will be made for warning the hearing impaired as conditions warrant.
6. Emergency warnings may be received at the EOC of the Department of Emergency Services CD/ODP Division-Delaware County Sheriff's Department-Communication Center and the NYS Police Information Network (NYSPIN), 24 hours.

### **SITUATION REPORTING**

1. The Director of the Department of Emergency Services will prepare the initial disaster situation report to be submitted to the County Executive and the Region II District Office of the State Emergency Management Office (SEMO).

The report will contain the following information:

- a. Date and time of disaster
- b. Type of disaster
- c. General location of disaster
- d. Specific area affected including the number of people
- e. Number of injured (estimate)
- f. Number of dead (estimate)
- g. Damage or loss of municipal response equipment-assessment
- h. Roads closed

i. Actions taken

2. The Director of the Department of Emergency Services or his designee will prepare follow-up reports.
3. Statewide emergency situation reports will be received through the National Weather Service (NWS) and the NY State Police Information Networks (NYSPIN).

**EMERGENCY PUBLIC INFORMATION - COUNTY OPERATION PROCEDURE**

1. In order to implement public protective actions there should be a timely, reliable and effective method to warn and inform the public.
2. Activation and implementation of public warning is an Operations section responsibility.
3. Information and warnings to the public that a threatening condition is imminent or exists can be accomplished through the use of the following resources. Though public warning may, in many cases, be implemented solely by on-scene personnel, the use of the systems in (a), (b), and (c) below require strict coordination with the EOC:
  - a) A verbal agreement exists between the Director of the Department of Emergency Services and the Delaware County Broadcast network. This agreement allows for the dissemination of emergency information directly to the public via local broadcasting media.
  - b) NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) - is the "Voice of the National Weather Service" providing continuous 24-hour radio broadcasts of the latest weather information including severe weather warnings directly from the Weather Service office in Binghamton. NWR will also broadcast non-weather-related emergency warnings. NWR broadcasts on select high-band FM frequencies, not available on normal AM-FM radios. Radios with NWR frequencies, automated alarm capabilities, and Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) technology are generally available.
  - c) Emergency service vehicles with siren and public address capabilities - Many police and fire vehicles in the County are equipped with siren and public address capabilities. These vehicles may be available, in part, during an emergency for "route alerting" of the public. This capability exists County-wide but should not be relied upon for public warning.
  - d) Door-to-door public warning can be accomplished in some situations by the individual alerting of each residence/business in a particular area. This can

be undertaken by any designated group such as auxiliary police, regular police, fire police, regular firefighters, visiting each dwelling in the affected area and relating the emergency information to the building occupants. To achieve maximum effectiveness, the individual delivering the warning message should be in official uniform.

4. The County Department of Emergency Services will advocate, as part of their normal dealing with special institutions such as schools, hospitals, nursing homes, major industries and places of public assembly, that they obtain and use tone-activated receivers/monitors with the capability to receive NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) with SAME reception.
5. Special arrangements may be made for providing warning information to the hearing impaired and, where appropriate, non-English speaking population groups.
6. The Command Staff position of Public Information Officer, or its function, may, in coordination with on-scene Incident Command:
  - a) Establish and manage a Joint News Center (JNC) from where to respond to inquiries from the news media and coordinate all official announcements and media briefings
  - b) Authenticate all sources of information being received and verify accuracy
  - c) Provide essential information and instructions including the appropriate protective actions to be taken by the public, to the broadcast media and press
  - d) Coordinate the release of all information with the key departments and agencies involved both at the EOC and on-scene
  - e) Control the spreading of rumors
  - f) Arrange and approve interviews with the news media and press by emergency personnel involved in the response operation
  - g) Arrange any media tours of emergency sites
7. The JNC may be established at the EOC or at any location where information flow can be maintained, without interfering with emergency operations.
1. In consultation with the Director of the Department of Emergency Services the County Executive will designate a County Public Information Officer (PIO) as the authoritative spokesperson for the county.



2. The County Public Information Officer (PIO) will:
  - a. Establish and manage a Joint News Center (JNC) from where to respond to inquiries from the news media and coordinate all official announcements and media briefings
  - b. Authenticate all sources of information being received and verify accuracy
  - c. Provide essential information and instructions including the appropriate protective actions to be taken by the public, to the broadcast media and press
  - d. Coordinate the release of all information with the key departments and agencies involved both at the EOC and on-scene
  - e. Control the spreading of rumors
  - f. Arrange and approve interviews with the news media and press by emergency personnel involved in the response operation
  - g. Arrange any media tours of emergency sites
3. The Public Information Center (PIC) may be established at the EOC or at any location where information flow can be maintained without interfering with emergency operations.
4. The PIC may be located at a "one-stop" center where citizens and news media can obtain information and assistance.

### **IMMEDIATE PROTECTIVE ACTION**

1. Protective action for emergency workers involved in containment, mitigation, assessment and recovery operations will be specific to the situation and the organization involved. The purpose of all protective actions will be to minimize the hazard to emergency response workers and the general public.
2. Depending on the type of disaster, the County Public Health Department, State Health Department, and/or other designated local or state agencies will combine their efforts for monitoring and exposure control.
3. The initial protective action recommendations will be made to the County EOC and to the incident commander. Reports and records will be communicated to and coordinated by the EOC.

4. The assessment of data will be done at the EOC as follows:
  - a. All monitoring data received at the EOC will be plotted on overlays.
  - b. Meteorological data received from the agencies and local NOAA stations will be recorded and correlated with monitoring data to construct downwind hazard predictions.
  - c. These analyses will be compared to the more complex and definitive assessments received from state and federal sources.
5. The County Executive, on recommendation of County/State Health and/or other state technical assistance agencies, will order proper exposure control.

### **EMERGENCY PUBLIC INFORMATION - STATE OPERATION PROCEDURE**

EAS dissemination arrangements at these levels originate from State and local governments in accordance with State and local area plans.

1. The EAS may be activated at the state or local area levels by broadcast stations and cable systems at their discretion for day-to-day emergency situations posing a threat to life and property.
2. EAS operations must be conducted as specified in State and local area plans.
3. State Relay (SR) sources monitor the State Relay Network or follow the State EAS Plan for instructions from the State Primary (SP) source.
4. Local Primary (LP) sources monitor the Local Area SR sources to follow the State EAS Plan for instructions.
5. Participating National (PN) and Non-participating National (NN) sources monitor the Local Area LP sources for instructions.
6. Broadcast stations and cable systems participating in the State or Local Area EAS must discontinue normal programming and follow the procedures in the State and Local Area Plans.
7. Upon completion of the State and Local Area EAS transmission procedures, resume normal programming until receipt of the cue from the SR or LP sources in your Local Area. Then broadcast the common emergency message. Resume normal programming at the conclusion of the emergency message.

