

HELPFUL INFORMATION

EAS Designation

EAS instructions vary for each particular designation. Broadcast stations are designated as either participating or non-participating stations. Most broadcast stations have elected to participate in EAS and are designated as Participating National (PN) stations. A small number of broadcast stations, however, have elected not to participate in the national level EAS and hold an FCC authorization letter to that effect. Non-participating stations are designated as Non-Participating National (NN) stations.

The EAS transmissions of national, state and local emergencies by PN sources are intended for direct public reception. (47 C.F.R. Section 11.18(e)). All stations, including NN stations, are required to install and test EAS equipment. Upon activation of the national level EAS, NN stations are required to broadcast the EAS codes, Attention Signal, and the sign-off announcement in this handbook, and then stop operating until the end of message code is received. (47 C.F.R. Section 11.18(f).)

Monitoring Requirements

All EAS Participants must monitor two EAS sources. The monitoring assignments are specified in the EAS State Plans and are determined according to FCC monitoring priorities. If the required EAS sources cannot be received, alternate arrangements or a waiver may be obtained by written request to the FCC. In an emergency, a waiver may be issued by the FCC over the telephone with a follow-up letter to confirm temporary or permanent reassignment. (47 C.F.R. Section 11.52)

EAS Equipment Readiness

EAS participants are required to test their ability to receive and distribute EAS messages and to keep records of all tests. EAS participants are responsible for ensuring that encoders, decoders and signal generating equipment used as part of the EAS are installed so that the monitoring and transmitting functions are available during the times that the station is in operation. In addition, EAS participants must determine the cause of any failure to receive the required tests or activations specified in Section 11.61(a)(1) and (a)(2) and indicate in the station's EAS log why the tests were not received. These logs must be retained for two years at the EAS participant's headquarters and must be made available for public inspection upon reasonable request.

In the event the EAS equipment becomes defective, a broadcast station may operate without the equipment pending its repair or replacement for a period not to exceed 60 days. If repair or replacement of defective equipment is not completed within 60 days, participants must submit an informal request for additional time to their assigned FCC field office. The request must include an explanation of what steps have been taken to repair the equipment. (47 C.F.R. Section 11.35(b) & (c)). Entries must be made in the participant's logs showing the date and time the equipment was removed and restored to service.