

**STATE OF VERMONT
EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM
PLAN**

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STATE OF VERMONT
EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM PLAN

The Vermont State Emergency Communications Committee is responsible for the maintenance of this plan. The following organizations are represented on this committee:

Vermont Public Radio
Vermont Public Broadcasting
Vermont Association of Broadcasters
Vermont Emergency Management
National Weather Service
Sison Broadcasting

The Vermont State Emergency Communications Committee would like to thank Vermont broadcasters and cable system operators for their continued support of this plan.

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EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM (EAS) CHECKLIST FOR BROADCAST STATIONS AND CABLE SYSTEMS

Station Name/POC: _____

Your EAS Operational Area is _____

EAS Monitoring Assignment stations are identified in Appendix A, EAS Sources

- _____ 1. All personnel are trained in EAS procedures and in the use of EAS equipment.
- _____ 2. EAS encoders and decoders are installed and operating.
- _____ 3. Correct assignments are monitored, according to State plans.
- _____ 4. Weekly and monthly EAS tests are received and logged.
- _____ 5. Weekly and monthly EAS test transmissions are made and logged.
- _____ 6. FCC EAS Operating Handbook is immediately available at the control point.
- _____ 7. Copy of State EAS plan is immediately available at the control point.
- _____ 8. A posting of each operational area served by this broadcast station of cable TV network is available at the control point.
- _____ 9. Copies of FCC EAS Rules and Regulations (Part 11) and, if appropriate, AM station emergency operation (Section 73.1250) are available at the control point.

Additional information about FCC Part 11 can be found by visiting the following website:

<http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?rgn=div5;node=47%3A1.0.1.1.12>

Record of Revisions

Date	POC	Revision
9/2017	Jason E. Gosselin, VEM	Made the following changes at the recommendation of the FCC: Page 9 Section 11.54(d) replaced with Page 9, Section 11.54(b); Page 10 – eliminated “as set forth in the FCC rules”; Page 20 – replaced “CATV” with “Cable systems”; added recommended language on Section II C. page 10.
6/2017	Jason E. Gosselin, VEM	Made additional changes based on final review from the Vermont State Communications Committee
5/2017	Jason E. Gosselin, VEM	Updates and comments in preparation for final review and acceptance by the Vermont State Emergency Communications Committee
8/2016	Scott Carpenter, VEM	Rewrite and update of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Removal of ‘Preamble’ and consolidation with ‘Purpose and Authority’• Clarity to ‘EAS Designations’ and addition of flow of EAS messaging visual• Removal of broken hyperlinks• Addition of VAlert references in various locations throughout document• Removal and consolidation of unused and redundant Appendices• Clarification and reworking of format of ‘Appendix A’• Removal of redundant National Weather Service radio information from ‘Appendix B’• Clarification and reworking of EAS Event Codes in ‘Appendix C’• Removal of local FIPS codes
9/2015	Emily Harris, VEM	Overhauled the plan to include updated technology and to allow for inclusion in the State Emergency Operations Plan

I. PURPOSE, AUTHORITY, AND INTRODUCTION

A. PURPOSE

This plan is the document mandated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) outlining the organization and implementation of the State of Vermont Emergency Alert System (EAS). It sets forth procedures for broadcast station and cable system personnel and designated government officials to disseminate emergency information and instructions in threatened or actual emergencies.

This plan is the guideline for Vermont broadcasters and cable system operators to determine:

- Their mandated and optional monitoring assignments;
- The codes to be used in the EAS Header sequence in this state;
- The schedule of the Required Monthly Tests (RMTs) which must be relayed by all broadcasters and cable operators within 60 minutes of reception; and
- Any other elements of the EAS which are unique to the State of Vermont.

B. AUTHORITY

Title 47 U.S.C. 151 – Creation of FCC

Title 47 U.S.C 154(i) – FCC Duties and powers

Title 47 U.S.C 154 (o)- Use of communications in safety of life and property

Title 47 U.S.C 303(r) – Powers and duties of commission

Title 47 U.S.C 606 – War Powers of the president

Executive Order 13407 – Public Alert and Warning System

47 C.F.R. Part 11, FCC Rules and Regulations, Emergency Alert System (EAS) as pertains to day-to-day emergency operations.

This plan is an adjunct to the FCC EAS Rules and is not meant to be a summary, in whole or in part, of those Rules. 47 CFR Part 11 contains the general rules regarding the Emergency Alert System. For purposes of this document, “FCC Rules” and “47 CFR Part 11” are used interchangeably.

C. INTRODUCTION

This plan was prepared by the Vermont State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC) which is comprised of Vermont Public Radio, Vermont PBS, Vermont Association of Broadcasters, Vermont Emergency Management (VEM), the National Weather Service

(NWS) Burlington office, and Sison Broadcasting. It provides background data and prescribes specific procedures for the broadcast and cable media to transmit emergency information and warnings to the public in the State of Vermont, or any portion thereof within the broadcast coverage or cable system service area, at the request of designated government officials.

A cautionary note:

With the EAS system, emergency services agencies have acquired a valuable tool in gaining direct access to the public through broadcasters and cable operators. However, if it is not used prudently, there is danger of undermining the effectiveness of this tool.

Broadcasters, cable operators, and the public expect that the EAS will be used only for sudden, unpredictable, or unforeseen events that pose an immediate threat to public health or safety, the nature of which precludes advance notification or warning. In many cases, as for examples with weather-related events such as winter storms, modern technology and standard news-dissemination practices provide ample notice to the public, thereby precluding the need to declare an emergency.

Emergency services personnel are urged to keep in mind that some broadcasters and cable operators keep their EAS decoders set on Automatic mode. Unattended operation of broadcast or cable facilities means there is no one available to screen an EAS message and decide whether it should be aired. They are depending on you to send EAS alerts only for very serious emergencies. The first time EAS is triggered for a frivolous event, public confidence in the system will be diminished.

FCC Rules § 11.45 prohibit the transmission of EAS codes or attention signal in any circumstance other than an actual emergency or authorized test.

Emergency services personnel should also remember that broadcasters and cable operators participate in the state-level EAS on a voluntary basis. No one can force them to carry your EAS alerts. Maintaining a good relationship with local broadcasters and cable operators is critical to their support for civil authorities during an actual crisis. However, non-participation does not relieve a broadcaster or cable system operator from the obligation to install and maintain a digital decoder as required in 47 CFR Part 11.11.

II. NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL EAS: PARTICIPATION AND PRIORITIES

A. National EAS Participation

All broadcasters and cable operators are required to participate in the National-level EAS. To provide the highest quality audio available, broadcasters and cable operators may override the EAS audio feed during a national EAS alert and substitute an audio feed of the President's message from another source. Broadcast stations and cable operators may not delay the transmission of national EAS messages in order to substitute alternative audio feeds, as all stations must continue to transmit all national EAS messages immediately upon receipt.¹

All broadcasters and cable operators must transmit a Required Weekly EAS Test (RWT) once a week, and must re-transmit the Required Monthly Test (RMT) once a month within 60 minutes of receiving it on their EAS Decoder.

All broadcasters and cable operators must interface with the Integrated Public Alert Warning Service (IPAWS) to enable the distribution of Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) formatted alert messages.² CAP messages contain standardized fields to facilitate interoperability. One of these standard fields is the six-digit location code. For the purposes of national level emergencies, the "six zeroes" code will be utilized to signal that the alert is relevant to the entire United States.³

B. State/Local EAS Participation

Stations/operators participating in the State and/or Local Area EAS must follow the procedures outlined in this Plan.

C. Conditions of EAS Participation

Acceptance of or participation in this plan shall not be deemed a relinquishment of program control and does not prohibit a broadcast licensee or cable system operator from exercising his/her independent discretion and responsibility in any given situation. The FCC Rules and Regulations, Part 11, provide for the management of each broadcast station or cable system to exercise discretion regarding the transmission of emergency messages and instructions to the public. Broadcast stations and cable systems originating EAS emergency communications shall be deemed to have conferred rebroadcast authority as specified in Section §11.54(b).

¹ FCC Report & Order, EB Docket No. 01-66, Released: 2/26/02

² FCC Report & Order, EB Docket No. 04-296, Released: 1/10/12

³ FCC Report & Order, EB Docket No. 04-296, Released: 6/3/15

All EAS Participants must install and deploy EAS equipment as required in the Commission's part 11 EAS rules. Although the vast majority of EAS Participants must install and deploy an EAS encoder (see 47 CFR § 11.32) and an EAS decoder (see 47 CFR § 11.33), certain exceptions apply to Class D non-commercial educational FM, LPFM, and LPTV stations, which are not required to install and deploy an EAS Encoder, but may do so on a voluntary basis. Notwithstanding this exception, all EAS Participants, including Class D non-commercial educational FM, LPFM, and LPTV stations must install and deploy an EAS Decoder. If your facility operates both an EAS encoder and decoder (Encoder/Decoder), then you should follow the general instructions in the 2017 Handbook. If your facility operates as decoder-only, you should follow the "decoder only" instructions below for Required Monthly Tests (RMT) and Required Weekly Tests (RWT).

D. EAS Priorities

The EAS Priorities are as follows:

1. Presidential Messages
2. Local Area Messages
3. State Messages
4. Messages from the National Information Center (NIC) (these are follow-up messages after a National EAS Activation).

E. General Considerations

The listening and viewing habits of the public are conducive to the positive effectiveness of the EAS. The instinctive reaction of the average person is to turn on a radio or television in time of emergency. However, continuing public education is required to increase public awareness of the EAS as an established medium for the receipt of emergency information at the Local, State, and National levels.

III. ORGANIZATION AND CONCEPTS OF VERMONT EAS

A. EAS Designations

EAS Station designations reflect the status of each broadcast station and cable system participating in the EAS program. Information on designations for specific broadcast stations is located in Appendix A.

Primary Entry Point (PEP)

PEP stations are a nationwide network of broadcast stations and other entities to serve as the sole source of National EAS messages and tests. These stations will be monitored by State Primary, State Relay, and Local Primary stations in order to create a “daisy chain” network, ensuring EAS coverage across the state.

State Primary (SP)

The SP monitors PEP stations and retransmits Presidential Level and state EAS messages. The SP also serves as the entry facility for state-level EAS messages originating from the designated government officials.

State Relay (SR)

SR stations are monitored by Local Primary stations in adjacent operational areas, in addition to being a Local Primary station themselves. SR stations are the primary source of EAS messages and tests for Local Primary stations. In Vermont, SR stations consist of the Vermont Public Radio microwave network.

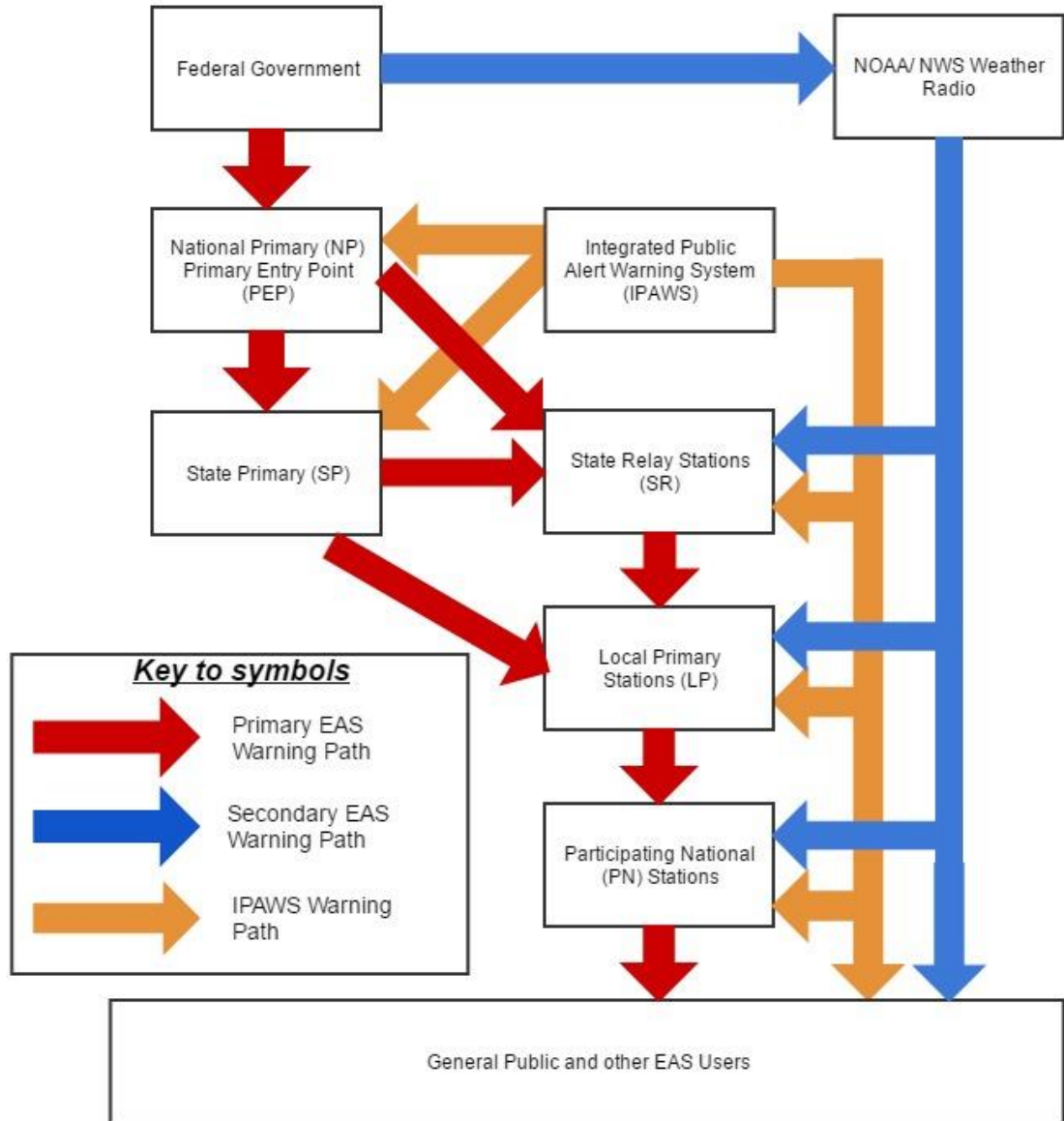
Local Primary (LP)

LP stations monitor SP and SR stations and relay EAS messages to other local EAS Participants. LP stations are the source of EAS Local Area messages and are responsible for coordinating the carriage of emergency messages as specified in a Local Area Plan.

Participating National (PN)

All other EAS participants are designated as PN stations, and must monitor at least two EAS sources, as identified in Appendix A of this plan.

The chart below outlines the flow of EAS messaging amongst the stations identified on the previous page:



B. Delivery Plan

This plan is designed to set up primary and alternate delivery methods for state-level EAS alerts. Stations which elect to monitor only the two assigned FCC-mandated sources will have two paths for all alerts. Consult Appendix A, State EAS Sources, to determine the specific sources each broadcaster and cable operator should monitor.

C. Local Area Planning

The Vermont SECC has written this plan to design the delivery system for National and State level alerts and messages. It is not within the scope of this plan to set up local area alert plans. Local broadcast stations and cable operators are encouraged to develop a relationship with their local emergency agencies and assist with the development of local EAS plans.

For unique local emergency situations not involving the entire state, local authorities may request local-area EAS activation. In such circumstances, local authorities should contact the SP (Vermont State Police (VSP) or VEM) to request activation (See Appendix D for contact information), as the EAS can be activated to provide warnings to specific sub-areas of the state.

D. Other Definitions

DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS: The person or persons designated by governments signatory to this procedure to request activation of the EAS and to make emergency announcements. These roles are identified in Section VII, List of Officials Designated to Activate Vermont EAS.

EMERGENCY: A situation posing an unforeseen and extraordinary threat to the safety of life and property. Examples include, but are not limited to, tornadoes, flash floods, discharge of toxic gases, widespread power failures, industrial explosions, child abductions, or nuclear incidents.

EMERGENCY ACTION NOTIFICATION: The notice to all EAS participants and the public that the EAS has been activated for a national emergency.

STATE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: The persons, appointed by the FCC, who are charged with planning and overseeing Emergency Alert System operations.

STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER: The state government facility where the government's emergency response is coordinated.

STATE WARNING POINT (SWP): The State Government facility that is responsible for receiving warnings and originating EAS messages and other warnings.

IV. ACTIVATION OF THE VERMONT EAS

A. State level activation

The Vermont State EAS is activated by request of designated government officials made to the Vermont SWPs. Vermont VEM in Waterbury is the primary originating distribution point of EAS messages at the State level. Alternate SP sources should monitor the SP source according to the Vermont EAS State Network (see Appendix A) for further dissemination of State level emergency information to all other stations and cable systems and the public.

B. Local level activation

Authorized officials may make requests for Local Area activation. In the absence of an approved EAS Local Area Plan, local officials should route their requests to the SWPs. Local officials are also encouraged to participate in and utilize local alerting via VTAlert.

C. General procedures for use of broadcast stations and cable systems

1. It is mandatory that all national level alerts are relayed through the EAS System, regardless of category.
2. It is required that broadcast stations and cable systems issue the Required Weekly Test (RWT), Required Monthly Test (RMT), National Information Center (NIC), and Emergency Alert Notification (EAN).
3. The National Weather Service offices in Burlington, VT and/or Albany, NY may activate the State EAS via the NOAA Weather radio system for the weather events listed in Appendix C.
4. Appropriate alert categories for Vermont EAS can be found in Appendix C
5. It is recommended that broadcast stations and cable systems issue Filter Test Logs.
6. For emergencies not involving the entire state, authorities may request activation of the EAS through the SWPs. The EAS can be activated to provide warnings to specific areas. In addition, VTAlert can be utilized to provide warnings for specific areas without requesting EAS activation through SWPs.
7. The Vermont SECC and VEM jointly authorize officials to request EAS activation under this plan and distribute authentication procedures to be used when requesting activation of the Vermont EAS. These procedures for authentication are on a need-to-know basis and are therefore not included in this plan.

D. Guidance for originators of EAS Alerts

1. Guidance for Emergency Services Personnel

EAS is designed so that agencies with an emergency message will need to transmit that message only once, and it will be received by all area broadcasters and cable operators simultaneously. The most accessible way to accomplish this is via the SWP (contact information is located in Appendix D). In order to generate an EAS message for transmission to broadcasters and cable operators, a device called an EAS Encoder is needed. This encoder transmits by radio, telephone, or microwave to broadcasters and cable operators, automatically triggering their EAS decoders to deliver the message.

2. Guidance for National Weather Service Personnel

NWS personnel issue EAS Weather Alerts via the NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) using the NOAA-SAME/EAS Codes. NWS procedures should be followed relating to the transmission of the SAME/EAS Codes, the 1050 Hz Alert Tone, and the reading of the Weather Bulletin script. Alerts for events other than weather emergencies will originate with state or local EMAs and may be broadcast as civil emergency messages by NWS personnel over NWR at the request of the SWPs.

3. Guidance for Nuclear Power Plant Personnel

Emergency notification for the decommissioning Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant in Vernon, VT is relayed to state officials via existing notification systems in place. Vermont Yankee passes along incident information to the SWPs and the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) in Waterbury using this system. Additional requirements for nuclear power plant events are contained in the Vermont Radiological Emergency Response plan.

V. IMPLEMENTATION OF AN EAS ACTIVATION

A. Procedures for State Designated Government Officials

General Considerations

Whenever possible, officials contemplating EAS activation should provide advance notice to VEM or SWP to assist them in preparing for possible EAS activation. Pre-scripted EAS messages can be provided to VEM ahead of time for ease of use during an event.

When it is agreed that EAS activation is necessary, discuss details with the SWP or VEM. The SP will program the EAS encoder with the appropriate emergency information, selecting the affected area, length of activation, emergency message, and contact number for additional information.

Procedure

1. Prepare EAS message. This message should be based on confirmed facts, and have instructions that are accurate and concise.
Note: EAS messages, INCLUDING ALL NECESSARY CODES, should not exceed two minutes in length. Due to this, the EAS message itself should not exceed one minute, 30 seconds.
2. Call the State Primary (SP) (VSP or VEM). The SP can be reached at 1-800-347-0488.
3. Request EAS Activation. Use the following format when requesting EAS Activation:
 - a. **“THIS IS (name / title) OF (jurisdiction) WITH A REQUEST TO ACTIVATE THE VERMONT EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM.**
 - b. **Situation summary** (*describe the nature of the emergency, including impact area, length of activation, and actions to be taken by the public*).

B. Procedures for State Primary operating personnel.

1. Verify activating official’s name and title.
2. Program the EAS encoder with the message type, affected area, message time duration, situation summary, and actions to be taken by the public. Use the following script.
 - a. *“We interrupt this program to activate the Vermont Emergency Alert System for a message from (name, title and/or jurisdiction)”.*
 - b. *Situation Summary*

- c. *Action Summary*
 - d. *(If applicable) "Stay tuned to (channel or frequency) for additional information."*
 - e. *"This concludes operations of the Vermont Emergency Alert System."*
3. Verify that the text to speech worked.
 4. Transmit the EAS message.
 5. Terminate Vermont EAS activation.

Detailed instructions for SP personnel are contained in the VT Alert EAS procedure.

C. Procedures for broadcast stations and cable systems

1. Upon receipt of a request to activate EAS from the SWP, the **SP** will immediately interrupt normal programming and broadcast the EAS message as received in its entirety. Since the request is received via a private circuit, no authentication is required.
2. If the request is from another authorized source: authenticate, determine if the message needs statewide distribution, and begin recording all emergency messages as follows:
 - a. Transmit the Emergency Alert System header codes and Attention Signal.
 - b. The header codes will be generated by the VEM, SWP, or NWS encoder. The SP encoder will rebroadcast the programmed information.
 - c. Transmit the entire emergency program, from header codes to End of Message (EOM), as received from the requesting authority.
3. Upon receipt of a State level emergency action notification, each broadcast station and cable system will, at the discretion of management, perform the same procedures as outlined in C.1. above, including recording all emergency messages.
4. To avoid unnecessary escalation of public confusion, all emergency services personnel, as well as broadcast stations and cable systems, must be cautious in providing information and news about the emergency. All messages must be based on definite and confirmed facts. The public must not be left to decide what is or is not factual.
5. Upon completion of the above transmission procedures, resume normal programming. Make notations in station and cable logs of all significant events. These records should be carefully preserved in the event they are required later (FCC Rules §11.55). Stations and cable systems may send a very brief summary to the FCC for information purposes.

Broadcast stations and cable systems are permitted to program their EAS equipment to preselect which EAS messages containing state and local event codes they wish to display and log. This will relieve EAS participants from the burden of logging unwanted messages, e.g., messages that do not apply to a participant's service area or messages concerning events which the participant has decided not to transmit. Broadcast stations and cable systems may upgrade their existing EAS equipment to include the selective displaying and logging capability on an optional basis until the equipment is replaced.

[FCC EAS Report & Order, EB Docket No. 01-66, at paragraph 45.]

6. If operations were not concluded as specified in C.1.c. above: Upon receipt of the termination notice from the activating official, transmit the EOM code.

VI. VERMONT EAS SCRIPTS AND FORMATS

Statewide tests of the Vermont Emergency Alert System will be conducted in accordance with CFR 47 Part 11.

A. State Activation

The State activating authorities shall use the following format for transmitting EAS messages to Vermont broadcasters and cable operators via the network described in Appendix A.

1. Send EAS Header Code 3 times (one-second pause between each)
2. One-second pause
3. Send EAS Attention Signal (0:08)
4. Send ACTIVATION SCRIPT:

“WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM TO ACTIVATE THE STATE OF VERMONT EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM BECAUSE OF A STATEWIDE EMERGENCY.

“THIS MESSAGE IS ORIGINATING FROM

[the Vermont Emergency Management in Waterbury]

[the State Police Public Safety Answering Point in Westminster/Williston].

“THE FOLLOWING IS AN ANNOUNCEMENT FROM

[the Governor (or designee) of the State of Vermont]

[the Commissioner (or designee) of the Vermont Department of Public Safety]

[the Director (or designee) of the Vermont Emergency Management]

[the Director (or designee) of the Vermont State Police]

[the Meteorologist-in-Charge of the National Weather Service (Burlington or Albany Office)].”

5. Play the recorded address, not to exceed one minute, factually describing the nature of the emergency and the recommended public action.
6. Following the address, send TERMINATION SCRIPT:

“THIS CONCLUDES PROGRAMMING OF THE VERMONT EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM. ALL BROADCAST STATIONS AND CABLE SYSTEMS MAY NOW RESUME NORMAL OPERATION.”

7. One-second pause
8. Send EAS End-of-Message (EOM) Code 3 times (one-second pause between each)

B. Regional or Local Activation

The State's EAS is subdivided into counties. Emergencies such as a hazardous materials incident, flooding or a large structural fire may only affect a single community. Local authorities may request EAS activation through the LP or the broadcast station/cable system serving that area or through the SWP, which will have origination facilities manned 24 hours a day.

Participation in local-level EAS is voluntary and at the discretion of the broadcaster/cable service provider. Many Vermont communities have EAS access privileges incorporated into cable service licensing agreements. Those with such licensing provisions should review their licensing agreements to ensure compliance with this EAS Plan.

1. Send EAS Header Code 3 times (one-second pause between each)
2. One-second pause
3. Send EAS Attention Signal (0:08)
4. Send ACTIVATION SCRIPT:

“WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM TO ACTIVATE THE STATE OF VERMONT EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM BECAUSE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY.

“THIS MESSAGE IS ORIGINATING FROM *[Location]*

“THE FOLLOWING IS AN ANNOUNCEMENT FROM *[Title]* of *[Location]*.”

5. Play the recorded address, not to exceed one minute, factually describing the nature of the emergency and the recommended public action.
6. Following the address, send TERMINATION SCRIPT:

“THIS CONCLUDES PROGRAMMING OF THE VERMONT EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM. ALL BROADCAST STATIONS AND CABLE SYSTEMS MAY NOW RESUME NORMAL OPERATION.”

7. One-second pause
8. Send EAS End-of-Message (EOM) Code 3 times (one-second pause between each)

VII. LIST OF OFFICIALS DESIGNATED TO ACTIVATE VERMONT EAS

The following is a list of officials designated by this procedure to request activation of the Statewide EAS and make emergency announcements:

- Governor or designee
- Commissioner, Department of Public Safety or designee
- Director, Vermont Emergency Management, or designee
- Director, Vermont State Police, or designee
- The National Weather Service offices in Burlington, VT or Albany, NY

The following is a list of officials designated by this procedure to request activation of the Local EAS and make emergency announcements:

- Mayor or City Manager
- Local Emergency Management Director
- Local Emergency Response Official:
 - Fire Department Chief
 - Police Department Chief
 - Emergency Medical Service Official

VIII. Appendices

Appendix A – EAS Sources

Stations listed in this Appendix are designated as relay points for National and State EAS messages and tests.

Note: this plan does not duplicate the “daisy chaining” of stations of the old EBS system. That approach resulted in severe reliability issues. The assignments contained in this Appendix ensure every station will be no more than one “hop” from the State Primary.

Primary Entry Point stations:

PEP stations are a nationwide network of broadcast stations and other entities to serve as the sole source of National EAS messages and tests. These stations will be monitored by State Primary, State Relay, and Local Primary stations in order to create a “daisy chain” network, ensuring EAS coverage across the state. The following station is the monitored PEP station for the State of Vermont:

1030 kHz WBZ Boston

In addition, National EAS messages and alerts may be received through the National Public Radio network and transmitted through State Primary and State Relay (Vermont Public Radio) Stations.

State Primary:

The SP monitors PEP stations and retransmits Presidential Level and state EAS messages. The SP also serves as the entry facility for state-level EAS messages originating from the designated government officials.

The SP in Vermont is the Vermont Emergency Management in Waterbury.

National Weather Service stations:

National Weather Service serves as the backup for the SP should the State microwave system fail. As such, all SR and LP stations are required to monitor the nearest NWS station. See Appendix B for a listing of NWS transmitters and frequencies.

Stations wishing to receive NWS Alerts should monitor NWS directly.

State Relay Stations:

SR stations are monitored by Local Primary stations in adjacent operational areas, in addition to being a Local Primary station themselves. SR stations are the primary source of EAS messages and tests for Local Primary stations. In Vermont, SR stations consist of the Vermont Public Radio microwave network, shown below in Figure 1.

**STATE OF VERMONT
EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM PLAN**

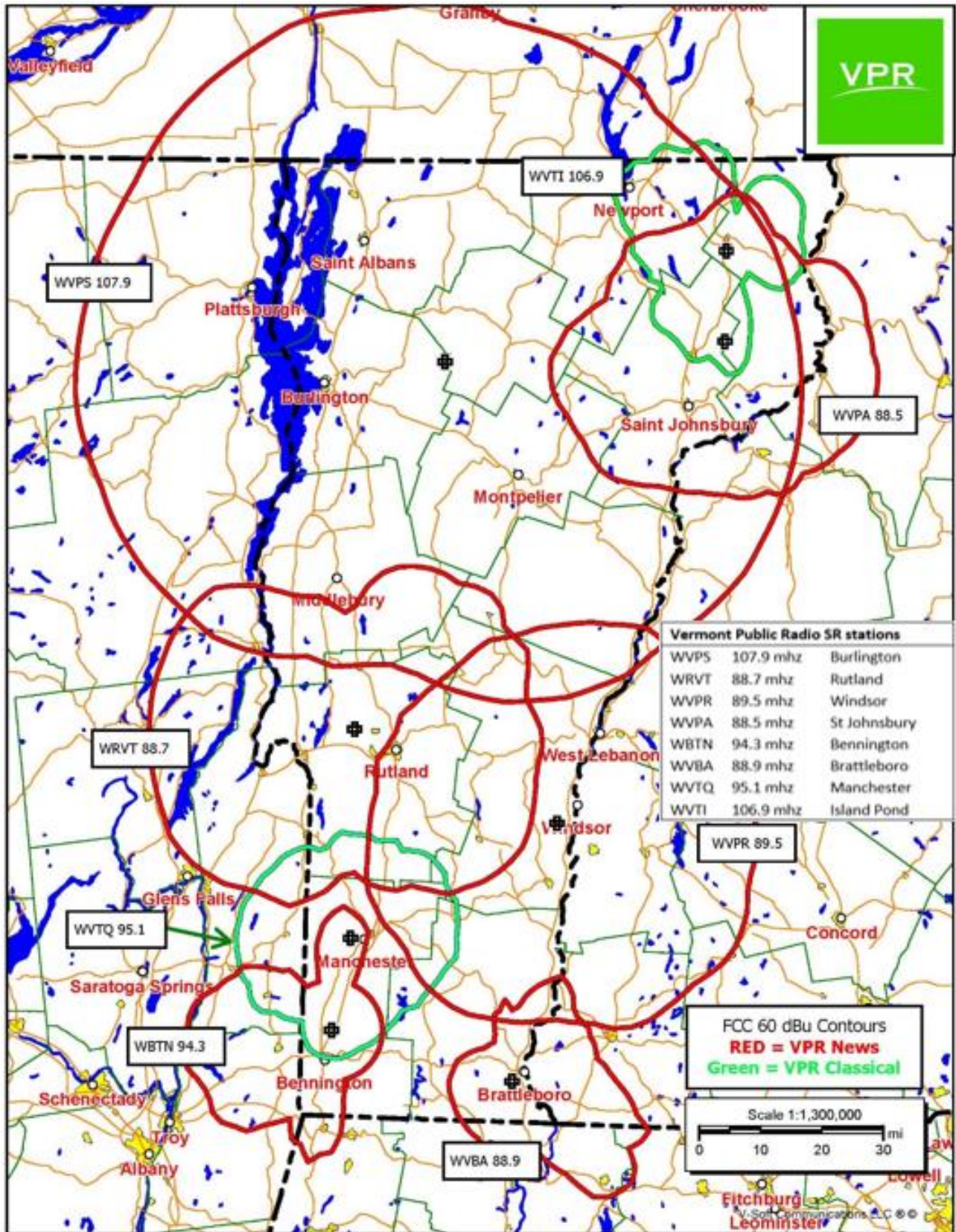


Figure 1. Vermont Public Radio EAS State Relay Stations

Local Primary Stations:

LP stations monitor SP stations and relay EAS messages to other local EAS Participants. LP stations are the source of EAS Local Area messages and are responsible for coordinating the carriage of emergency messages as specified in a Local Area Plan.

Table of Monitoring Assignments

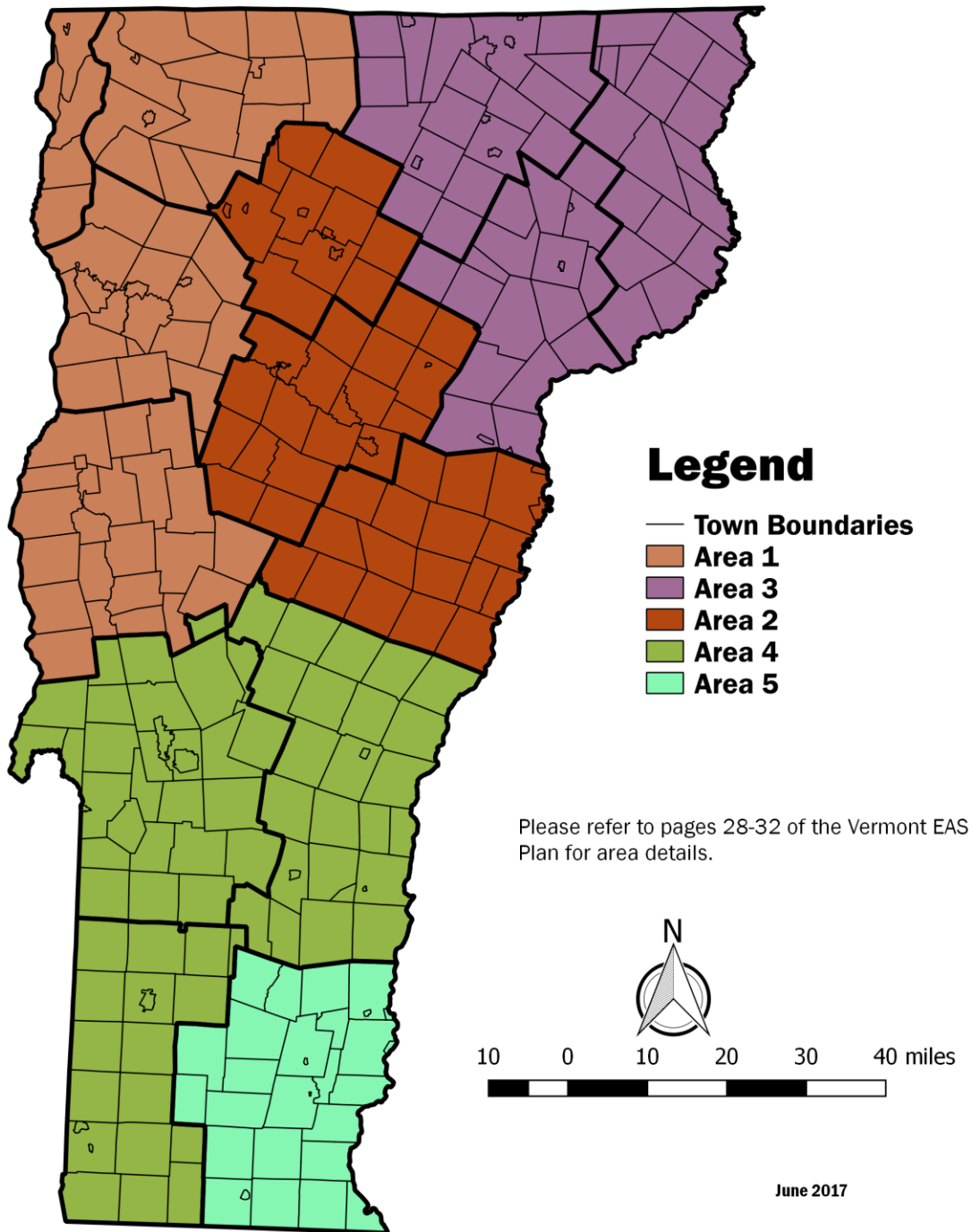
The following map and subsequent **Table of Monitoring Assignments** is intended to be used by local over-the-air broadcasters within certain geographical areas to determine potential State Relay and Local Primary monitoring stations for use. The table is organized into five distinct EAS operational areas by geographic county boundaries. It is intended to provide a consolidated format for locating local EAS monitoring stations; however, broadcasters may find stations within other EAS Areas within Vermont will better suit their needs.

Co-locations have been taken into account and identical monitoring assignments have been used where practical. Some co-locations will require monitoring of LPs whose operational areas may not be geographically near the co-located main studio. In that case, EAS hardware may be required at the transmitter site.

Stations along border areas with other states are urged to select an additional monitoring assignment from a regional station in the neighboring state. Stations must comply with the state plan for the community of license regardless of physical location of the transmitter or main studio. This plan applies only to stations and cable systems licensed to Vermont communities.

All other stations shall monitor their LP station, a second LP station, SR station, or other assignment. Monitoring NWS stations is recommended to provide weather alerts to listeners.

Vermont Emergency Alert System Areas



**STATE OF VERMONT
EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM PLAN**

VT-EAS Area 1:

Champlain Valley

Chittenden, Grand Isle, Franklin, and Addison Counties

All of these areas border Lake Champlain and are generally open valley areas. This operational area has the largest population center in Vermont and shares common natural hazards such as high winds and springtime lakeshore flooding. Hazardous Material (HAZMAT) incidents are an ever-present danger in this busy transportation corridor - including potential problems on the state's most congested road system, railroad freight links to Canada and shipping on Lake Champlain.

	Primary Monitor			Secondary Monitor		
SR	WVPS	107.9 mhz	Burlington	WEZF	92.9 mhz	Burlington
LP	WVMT	620 kHz	Colchester	WOKO	98.9 mhz	South Burlington

National Weather Service Stations:

<u>County/City/Area</u>	<u>SAME</u>	<u>Transmitter</u>	<u>Site State</u>	<u>Call Sign</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Power</u>	<u>NWS Office</u>
Addison	050001	Burlington	VT	KIG60	162.400	500	Burlington, VT
Addison	050001	Gore Mtn.	NY	KSC43	162.450	300	Albany, NY
Chittenden	050007	Burlington	VT	KIG60	162.400	500	Burlington, VT
Franklin	050011	Burlington	VT	KIG60	162.400	500	Burlington, VT
Grand Isle	050013	Burlington	VT	KIG60	162.400	500	Burlington, VT

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VT-EAS Area 2:

Central Vermont

Lamoille, Washington, and Orange Counties

This area is home to the State Capital and other major state-government facilities, including the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). These counties are along and east of the spine of the Green Mountains and are prone to common hazards such as heavy snow, ice jams and flooding.

	Primary Monitor			Secondary Monitor		
SR	WVPS	107.9 mhz	Burlington	WEZF	92.9 mhz	Burlington
LP	WDEV	550 kHz 96.1 mhz	Waterbury	WORK	107.1 mhz	Barre

National Weather Service Stations:

<u>County/City/Area</u>	<u>SAME</u>	<u>Transmitter</u>	<u>Site State</u>	<u>Call Sign</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Power</u>	<u>NWS Office</u>
Lamoille	050015	Burlington	VT	KIG60	162.400	500	Burlington, VT
Lamoille	050015	St. Johnsbury	VT	WWG50	162.425	300	Burlington, VT
Orange	050017	Windsor	VT	WXM44	162.475	400	Burlington, VT
Orange	050017	Holderness	NH	WNG545	162.550	300	Gray, ME
Orange	050017	Hanover	NH	WNG546	162.525	300	Gray, ME
Orange	050017	Burlington	VT	KIG60	162.400	500	Burlington, VT
Washington	050023	St. Johnsbury	VT	WWG50	162.425	300	Burlington, VT
Washington	050023	Burlington	VT	KIG60	162.400	500	Burlington, VT

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VT-EAS Area 3:

Northern Vermont

Orleans, Essex, and Calendonias Counties

This is a very rural area of the state, with limited transportation options. Providing information to the public may be limited due to poor coverage of major dissemination systems. Because of winter storm conditions, especially icing conditions, high elevation areas on I-91 are subject to hazardous material (HAZMAT) incidents.

	Primary Monitor			Secondary Monitor			Tertiary Monitor		
SR	WVPA	88.5 mhz	St Johnsbury	WVPS	107.9 mhz	Burlington			
				WVTI	106.9mhz	Island Pond			
LP	WMOO	92.1 mhz	Derby Line	WNKV	105.5 mhz	St Johnsbury	WSTJ	1340 kHz	St Johnsbury

National Weather Service Stations:

County/City/Area	SAME	Transmitter	Site State	Call Sign	Frequency	Power	NWS Office
Caledonia	050005	St. Johnsbury	VT	WWG50	162.425	300	Burlington, VT
Caledonia	050005	Mt. Washington	NH	KZZ41	162.500	100	Gray, ME
Essex	050009	Mt. Washington	NH	KZZ41	162.500	100	Gray, ME
Essex	050009	St. Johnsbury	VT	WWG50	162.425	300	Burlington, VT
Orleans	050019	St. Johnsbury	VT	WWG50	162.425	300	Burlington, VT
Orleans	050019	Burlington	VT	KIG60	162.400	500	Burlington, VT

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VT-EAS Area 4:

**Southern Vermont
Rutland, Windsor, and Bennington Counties**

Within the geographical boundaries of this operational area are several highways (State Routes 4, 7, 9 & 103, US routes I-89 & I-91) and a major rail transportation corridor. These attributes increase HAZMAT incident risks to the area. Each county in this area borders another state: Rutland with New York, Windsor with New Hampshire, Bennington with New York and Massachusetts. East and west travel is particularly difficult because of total reliance on two-way roads and crossing the high elevation of the Green Mountains.

	Primary Monitor			Secondary Monitor			Tertiary Monitor		
SR	WRVT	88.7 mhz	Rutland	WVPR	89.5 mhz	Windsor	WBTV	94.3 mhz	Bennington
				WVTQ	95.4 mhz	Manchester			
LP	WSYB	1380 kHz	Rutland	WZRT	97.1 mhz	Rutland			

National Weather Service Stations:

<u>County/City/Area</u>	<u>SAME</u>	<u>Transmitter</u>	<u>Site State</u>	<u>Call Sign</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Power</u>	<u>NWS Office</u>
Bennington	050003	Windsor	VT	WXM44	162.475	400	Burlington, VT
Bennington	050003	Mt. Greylock	MA	WWF48	162.525	100	Albany, NY
Bennington	050003	Marlboro	VT	WXM68	162.425	300	Albany, NY
Rutland	050021	Windsor	VT	WXM44	162.475	400	Burlington, VT
Rutland	050021	Gore Mtn.	NY	KSC43	162.450	300	Albany, NY
Rutland	050021	Burlington	VT	KIG60	162.400	500	Burlington, VT
Rutland	050021	Castleton	VT	WNG671	162.500	300	Burlington, VT
Windsor	050027	Windsor	VT	WXM44	162.475	400	Burlington, VT
Windsor	050027	Marlboro	VT	WXM68	162.425	300	Albany, NY
Windsor	050027	Holderness	NH	WNG545	162.550	300	Gray, ME
Windsor	050027	Hanover	NH	WNG546	162.525	300	Gray, ME

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VT-EAS Area 5:

Windham County

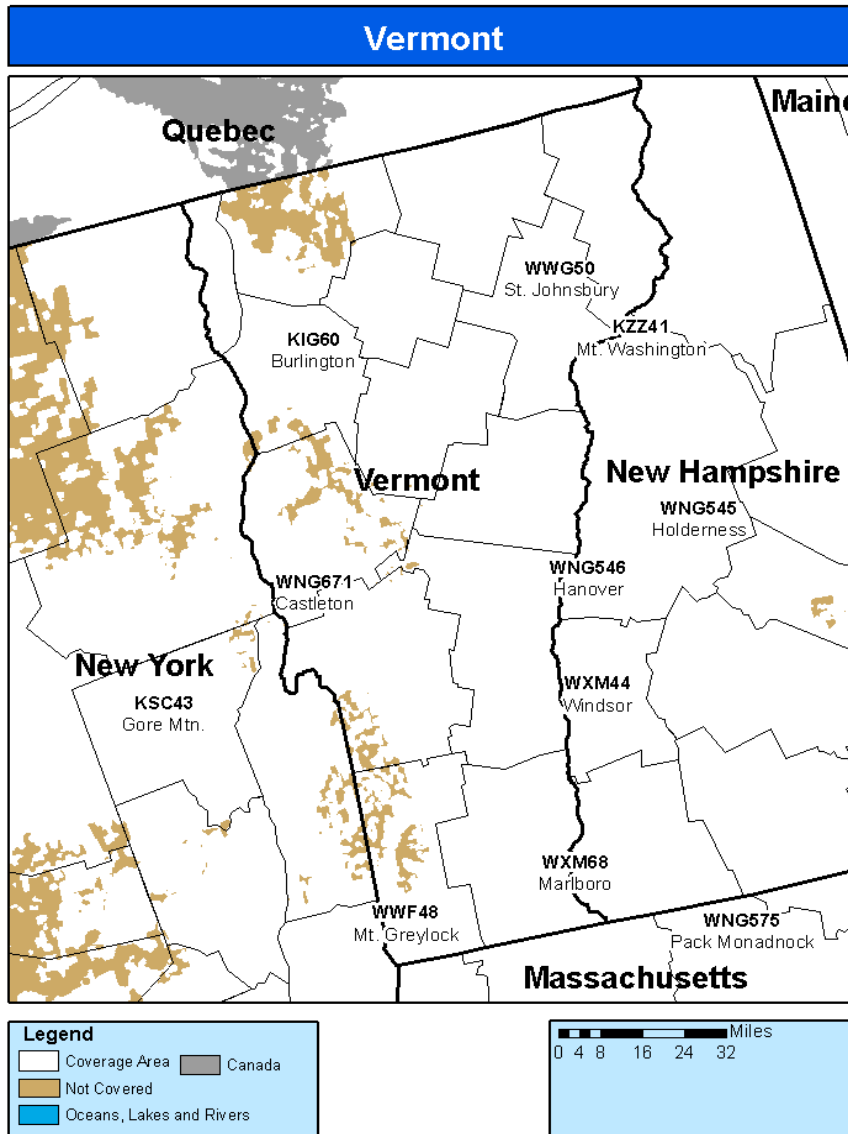
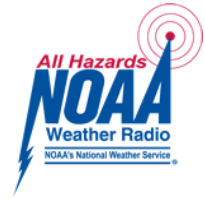
This southeastern Vermont area is prone to severe flooding and is home to the decommissioning Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant.

	Primary Monitor			Secondary Monitor			NWS Station(s)
SR	WVPR	89.5 mhz	Windsor	WBTN	94.3 mhz	Bennington	
	WVBA	88.9mhz	Brattleboro				
LP	WTSA	96.7 mhz 1450 kHz	Brattleboro	WKVT	92.7 mhz 1490 kHz	Brattleboro	

National Weather Service Stations:

<u>County/City/Area</u>	<u>SAME</u>	<u>Transmitter</u>	<u>Site State</u>	<u>Call Sign</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Power</u>	<u>NWS Office</u>
Windham	050025	Marlboro	VT	WXM68	162.425	300	Albany, NY
Windham	050025	Pack Monadnock	NH	WNG575	162.525	300	Taunton, MA
Windham	050025	Windsor	VT	WXM44	162.475	400	Burlington, VT
Windham	050025	Mt. Greylock	MA	WWF48	162.525	100	Albany, NY

Appendix B – NOAA Weather Radio Broadcast Coverage in Vermont



Vermont Station Listing

<u>Site Name</u>	<u>Transmitter Name</u>	<u>Call Sign</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Power</u>	<u>NWS Office</u>
Burlington	Mount Mansfield	KIG60	162.400	500	Burlington, VT
Castleton	Grandpas Knob	WNG671	162.500	300	Burlington, VT
St. Johnsbury	Burke Mountain	WWG50	162.425	300	Burlington, VT
Windsor	Mount Ascutney	WXM44	162.475	400	Burlington, VT
Marlboro	Marlboro	WXM68	162.425	300	Albany, NY

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County Coverage for Vermont

<u>County/City/Area</u>	<u>SAME</u>	<u>Transmitter</u>	<u>Site State</u>	<u>Call Sign</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Power</u>	<u>NWS Office</u>
Addison	050001	Burlington	VT	KIG60	162.400	500	Burlington, VT
Addison	050001	Gore Mtn.	NY	KSC43	162.450	300	Albany, NY
Bennington	050003	Windsor	VT	WXM44	162.475	400	Burlington, VT
Bennington	050003	Mt. Greylock	MA	WWF48	162.525	100	Albany, NY
Bennington	050003	Marlboro	VT	WXM68	162.425	300	Albany, NY
Caledonia	050005	St. Johnsbury	VT	WWG50	162.425	300	Burlington, VT
Caledonia	050005	Mt. Washington	NH	KZZ41	162.500	100	Gray, ME
Chittenden	050007	Burlington	VT	KIG60	162.400	500	Burlington, VT
Essex	050009	Mt. Washington	NH	KZZ41	162.500	100	Gray, ME
Essex	050009	St. Johnsbury	VT	WWG50	162.425	300	Burlington, VT
Franklin	050011	Burlington	VT	KIG60	162.400	500	Burlington, VT
Grand Isle	050013	Burlington	VT	KIG60	162.400	500	Burlington, VT
Lamoille	050015	Burlington	VT	KIG60	162.400	500	Burlington, VT
Lamoille	050015	St. Johnsbury	VT	WWG50	162.425	300	Burlington, VT
Orange	050017	Windsor	VT	WXM44	162.475	400	Burlington, VT
Orange	050017	Holderness	NH	WNG545	162.550	300	Gray, ME
Orange	050017	Hanover	NH	WNG546	162.525	300	Gray, ME
Orange	050017	Burlington	VT	KIG60	162.400	500	Burlington, VT
Orleans	050019	St. Johnsbury	VT	WWG50	162.425	300	Burlington, VT
Orleans	050019	Burlington	VT	KIG60	162.400	500	Burlington, VT
Rutland	050021	Windsor	VT	WXM44	162.475	400	Burlington, VT
Rutland	050021	Gore Mtn.	NY	KSC43	162.450	300	Albany, NY
Rutland	050021	Burlington	VT	KIG60	162.400	500	Burlington, VT
Rutland	050021	Castleton	VT	WNG671	162.500	300	Burlington, VT
Washington	050023	St. Johnsbury	VT	WWG50	162.425	300	Burlington, VT
Washington	050023	Burlington	VT	KIG60	162.400	500	Burlington, VT
Windham	050025	Marlboro	VT	WXM68	162.425	300	Albany, NY
Windham	050025	Pack Monadnock	NH	WNG575	162.525	300	Taunton, MA
Windham	050025	Windsor	VT	WXM44	162.475	400	Burlington, VT
Windham	050025	Mt. Greylock	MA	WWF48	162.525	100	Albany, NY
Windsor	050027	Windsor	VT	WXM44	162.475	400	Burlington, VT
Windsor	050027	Marlboro	VT	WXM68	162.425	300	Albany, NY
Windsor	050027	Holderness	NH	WNG545	162.550	300	Gray, ME
Windsor	050027	Hanover	NH	WNG546	162.525	300	Gray, ME

Appendix C – EAS Decoders

Operation Modes; Programming; Codes Transmitted by Key Sources

All alerts sent via EAS must comply with the requirements set forth via 47 CFR Part 11 as well as the instructions contained within this plan. Broadcasters are encouraged to ensure they are following the procedures required of their own equipment manufacturers.

Note: EAS units have three filters that have predetermined codes for National Alerts and Required Monthly Tests; all other codes must be defined. Each station must program its unit to accommodate certain alerts. Otherwise, the unit may default to “log only” or “pass all” depending on manufacturer. All other filters must be programmed to accommodate the Vermont EAS Plan.

1. EAS DECODER OPERATION MODES

All EAS Decoders must be capable of operating in at least two modes, Manual and Automatic.

MANUAL OPERATION: In the manual mode the EAS unit will only notify the operator of any incoming EAS Alert that has been programmed into it. The operator must take appropriate action to cause the Alert to be re-transmitted over the station/cable system.

AUTOMATIC OPERATION: This type of operation is normally used with a program interrupt connection on the EAS unit. On-air audio and/or video is "looped through" the EAS unit so that the unit can interrupt the audio/video when necessary. In Automatic operation, when the EAS decoder is triggered by an EAS Alert, the unit immediately interrupts programming to transmit the EAS Alert.

SEMI-AUTOMATIC OPERATION: Some manufacturers offer a semi-automatic mode of operation in which the unit will begin a preset countdown to an automatic interrupt after receiving an EAS Alert. The operator should run the EAS Alert on the air manually at the earliest convenience. If the Alert is not run when the preset countdown time expires, the EAS unit will take over and transmit the EAS Alert automatically.

NOTE: BROADCASTERS USING "UNATTENDED OPERATION" MUST RUN THEIR EAS DECODER IN AUTOMATIC MODE OR SEMI-AUTOMATIC MODE.

2. EAS HEADER CODE INFORMATION

A. EAS Header Code Analysis

The FCC has mandated that an EAS Header Code contain the following elements sent in the following sequence:

1. [Preamble] ZCZC-ORG-EEE-PSSCCC-TTTT-JJHHMM-LLLLLLLL
2. Attention Signal
3. Aural, Visual, or Text Message
4. [Preamble]

NNNN

Explanation:

1. [Preamble]= (Clears the system): Sent automatically by your Encoder.

ZCZC= (Start of ASCII Code): Sent automatically by your Encoder.

ORG= (Originator Code): Preset once by originator, then sent automatically by your Encoder. **See Section "B" below for codes.**

EEE= (Event Code): Determined by originator, each time an alert is sent. **See Section "C" below for codes.**

PSSCCC= (Location Code): Determined by originator, each time an alert is sent.

TTTT= (Duration of Alert): Determined by originator, each time an alert is sent.

JJHHMM= (Date/Time-of-Day): Sent automatically by your Encoder.

LLLLLLLL= (8-Character ID, identifying the Broadcaster, Cable operator, Weather Service Office, Nuclear/Industrial Plant, or Civil Authority operating that Encoder): Preset once by user, then sent automatically by your Encoder.

2. Attention Signal: Must be sent if aural, visual or text message is sent.

3. [Preamble]= (Re-clears the system): sent automatically by your Encoder when you receive the

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End-of-Message sequence.

4. NNNN= (End-of-Message Code): **Must be initiated manually** at the end of **every** EAS Alert originated by all sources. A failure of the system will occur if this code is not sent to reset the Decoders of all station/operators that carried that alert.

[Note: The EAS protocol, including any codes, must not be amended, extended, or abridged without FCC authorization.]

B. Vermont Originator Codes (ORG)

All EAS messages carry a code for the originator of the message. The following are the **only** Originator Codes to be used by sources in the state of Vermont:

Code	Origin
CIV	Civil Authorities
EAN	Emergency Action Notification Network
EAS	Broadcasters and Cable television operators
PEP	Primary Entry Point System
WXR	National Weather Service

C. EAS Event Codes (EEE)

Whether used under the authority of the State EAS Plan, or any of the County/Local Area EAS Plans, the following are the **only** Event Codes to be used in the State of Vermont by anyone, for any purpose. No codes can be added without FCC approval. County/Local Area EAS Plans which desire to use a code not included in this list should submit that code request to the SECC for FCC approval and subsequent addition to this list. This list will be maintained as a "Master List" for all Event Codes used in the State of Vermont.

Note: This list is not to be construed as indicative of the events for which EAS should automatically be activated.

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i. FCC Event Codes

The following EAS event codes are required to be programmed into broadcaster and cable operator EAS Decoders by the FCC:

Code	EAS Event	Retransmission interval
EAN	National EAS Activation	IMMEDIATE
EAT	National EAS Termination	IMMEDIATE
NIC	National Information Center	IMMEDIATE
NPT	National Periodic Test	IMMEDIATE
RMT	Required Monthly Test	WITHIN 60 MINUTES OF RECEIPT
RWT	Required Weekly Test	NOT NECESSARY

ii. Vermont Event Codes

The following list of event codes is a minimum required list of events for activation of EAS units in Vermont. Highlights outline the types of activations required of certain codes.

Code	EAS Event	Retransmission interval
EWV	Extreme Wind Warning	IMMEDIATE
FFW	Flash Flood Warning	IMMEDIATE
FLW	Flood Warning	IMMEDIATE
TOR	Tornado Warning	IMMEDIATE
CAE	Child Abduction Emergency	IMMEDIATE
CEM	Civil Emergency Message	IMMEDIATE
EVI	Evacuation Immediate	IMMEDIATE
NPT	National Periodic Test	IMMEDIATE
DMP	Practice/ Demo Warning	IMMEDIATE
SVR	Severe Thunderstorm Warning	WITHIN 5 MINUTES OF RECEIPT
BZW	Blizzard Warning	WITHIN 5 MINUTES OF RECEIPT
FFA	Flash Flood Watch	WITHIN 5 MINUTES OF RECEIPT
HWW	High Wind Warning	WITHIN 5 MINUTES OF RECEIPT
TOA	Tornado Watch	WITHIN 5 MINUTES OF RECEIPT
WSW	Winter Storm Warning	WITHIN 5 MINUTES OF RECEIPT
TRW	Tropical Storm Warning	WITHIN 5 MINUTES OF RECEIPT
	NOAA Weather Radio (NWR), SAME, and 1050Hz Tone Alert	
	EAS Activation Requested, NWR, SAME, and 1050Hz Tone Alert	

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Appendix D – Contact Information

1. Landline and cellular telephone service exists between VEM, VSP, NWS Offices in Burlington and Albany, and the broadcast and cable facilities of the state. Refer to the numbers below for the contact information.
2. There is a radio communications link and an emergency telephone circuit available between VEM, PSAP, the NWS Offices in Burlington and Albany.

Contact numbers:

Vermont Emergency Management	800-347-0488
National Weather Service, Burlington	802-658-0207
National Weather Service, Albany	518-435-9580
State Warning Point – Westminster	802-722-4600
Alternate State Warning Point – Williston	802-878-7111

Questions regarding the state of Vermont EAS Plan:

Jason E. Gosselin
Operations and Logistics Section Chief
Vermont Emergency Management
1-800-347-0488
Jason.Gosselin@vermont.gov

Appendix E – EAS Tests

A. Required Weekly Test (RWT)

1. Transmission: All broadcasters and cable operators must transmit an RWT once each week at random days and times except for the week of the RMT test. There are no time-of-day or week day restrictions. This is a 10.5-second test, consisting only of the EAS Header and End-of-Message Codes and using the “RWT” event code (see FCC Rules § 11.31). An appropriate entry regarding transmission must be made in the Station Log.
2. Reception: All broadcasters and cable operators receiving a RWT from one of their monitored sources must log receipt of this test. No further action is required.

B. Required Monthly Test (RMT)

1. Transmission

RMTs will be initiated by the **Vermont Emergency Management**. During the designated time for this test, all other broadcasters and cable operators are to wait for this test and then react as described in (4.) below. These tests will use the Event Code "RMT".

2. Scheduling of RMTs / Week and Time-of-Day

Pursuant to FCC Rule 47 CFR Part 11 - EAS tests in odd numbered months shall occur between 8:30 a.m. and local sunset. Tests in even numbered months shall occur between local sunset and 8:30 a.m.

The schedule of RMTs is updated on an annual basis and found here:

<http://VEM.vermont.gov/eas/testing>

The Originating Station will send the RMT at its discretion. The SP Stations must then rebroadcast this test within 60 minutes of receiving it.

3. Scheduling of RMTs / Recommended Time Constraints

The Originating Station is requested to use discretion in scheduling times for RMTs. Since all broadcasters and cable operators are required to rebroadcast this test within 60 minutes of receiving it, care should be taken not to put undue hardship on broadcasters when they are carrying their highest-revenue programming. On a daily basis, these periods would include all major newscasts: early morning, noon-time, evening, and late- evening. In addition, the times of major events should be avoided, such as pre-planned Presidential speeches, times of a major national or local news story carried outside of normal newscast hours, local and national election coverage, and major

sporting events like World Series games and the Super Bowl. Whenever possible, the RMT should be scheduled within ten minutes prior to the top or bottom of the hour.

Broadcasters and cable operators which have a complaint regarding the scheduling of RMTs in their Area should make their concerns known to the SECC Chairs.

4. Reception / Re-transmission of RMTs

All broadcasters and cable operators receiving an RMT test must re-transmit this test within 60 minutes of receiving it. For Daytime-only stations receiving a night-time RMT, this test may be re-transmitted within 60 minutes of the Daytime-only station's sign-on.

Transmission of this RMT test takes the place of the Required Weekly Test (RWT) for that week. Times should be logged for both the receipt and re-transmission of the RMT test.

Broadcast and cable management should impress upon their staff that re-transmission of this test is mandatory. It is an FCC violation to fail to re-transmit this test within 60 minutes of receiving it (or, for daytime-only operations, within 60 minutes of sign-on).

An actual event, such as an Amber Alert, will take place of a Required Monthly Test. In addition, actual events that may occur in the state of Vermont may postpone the Required Monthly Test. If a situation develops that takes precedence of a Required Monthly Test, Vermont Emergency Management officials will notify broadcast organizations accordingly.

The best policy may be to set your EAS unit for a 60-minute automatic countdown upon receiving an RMT. If the operator on duty does not send the test manually within that window, the EAS unit will do it when time runs out.

Appendix F – Vermont Alert

Vermont (VT) Alert is the all-hazards notification system utilized by VEM. VT Alert does not replace EAS messaging, instead it helps facilitate the delivery of an alert or notification message. VT Alert is a web-based notification system which has the capability to use multiple channels in order to distribute alert and notification messaging to the public:

- EAS;
- CMAS (Cellular Mobile Alerting System);
- Email;
- Phone (cellular and/ or landline);
- Pager;
- SMS/ MMS text messaging;
- Reverse 911;
- and posting to the VTAlert.gov website.

Members of the general public have the ability to sign up for an account at VTAlert.gov and determine locations, types, and times to receive alerting messaging through VT Alert. In addition, the system also has the capability to override any setting so that, during times of extreme emergency, messaging will be delivered to a user regardless of their selected preferences. CMAS utilizes cellular tower proximity notification (“geofencing”) which alerts all cellular telephones within a geographic area, regardless of whether a user has setup an account. Within VT Alert, EAS and CMAS can only be utilized by authorized personnel, however geofencing allows for notifications to be sent without requiring EAS activation through the SWP.

Towns, State and Federal Government agencies, and select non-profit organizations also have the ability to create internal notification groups based upon their needs. These notification groups can utilize all of the channels listed above, with the exception of CMAS and Reverse 911. VT Alert gives communities with trained, authorized users the ability to issue EAS messages utilizing VT Alert.