

REVISED INTERIM

STATE

EAS

EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

PLAN

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

YOUR LOCAL EAS AREA

YOUR EAS MONITORING ASSIGNMENTS

- _____ 1. All personnel trained in EAS procedures and in the use of EAS equipment.
- _____ 2. EAS encoders and decoders installed and working.
- _____ 3. Correct assignments monitored, according to EAS State or Local Area plans.
- _____ 4. Weekly and monthly EAS tests received and logged.
- _____ 5. Weekly and monthly EAS test transmissions made and logged.
- _____ 6. EAS Operating Handbook immediately available.
- _____ 7. Copies of EAS State and Local Area plans immediately available.
- _____ 8. Copy of FCC EAS Rules and Regulations (Part 11) and, if appropriate, AM station emergency operation (Section 73.1250) available.

STATE OF INDIANA

EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM (EAS) OPERATIONAL PLAN

This Plan was prepared by the Indiana State Emergency Communications Committee in cooperation with the Indiana State Emergency Management Agency; the National Weather Service Indianapolis Forecast Office; the Indiana Cable Association; the Indiana Broadcasters Association, State and local officials, and the broadcasters and cable systems of Indiana.

NOTE: Internal EAS Local Area operating procedures of the broadcasters, cable systems, State officials, or the National Weather Service, relating to the State EAS Operational Plan, may be attached as an Annex to this plan.

June, 2000

THIS INDIANA STATE EAS PLAN IS REVISED TO ADD NEW VINCENNES LOCAL AREA EFFECTIVE JUNE, 2000 AND TO DELETE COUNTIES FROM TERRE HAUTE AND EVANSVILLE LOCAL AREAS AS A RESULT.

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APPROVALS AND CONCURRENCES

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_____	_____	Chairman, Indiana State Emergency Communications Committee
George E. Molnar, Jr.	date	
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Michael K. Powell	date	

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THIS INTERIM INDIANA STATE EAS PLAN IS REVISED BUT NOT APPROVED UNTIL LP-1 STATIONS ARE DETERMINED FOR THE NORTHWEST AND EVANSVILLE INDIANA EAS LOCAL AREAS. ANY BROADCASTERS INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING THEIR TIME TO JOIN OUR EAS PLANNING COMMITTEES OR IN VOLUNTEERING THEIR FACILITIES AND SERVICES AS AN LP-1 STATION SHOULD CONTACT THE INDIANA S.E.C.C., GEORGE MOLNAR, AT (574) 631-1278, FAX (574) 631-1600, OR E-MAIL gmolnar@nd.edu

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to explain and provide procedures for the broadcast and cable services and designated government officials of Indiana to disseminate emergency information and instructions in threatened or actual emergencies.

AUTHORITY

Title 47 U.S.C. 151, 154(i) and (o), 303(r), 524(g) and 606; and 47 C.F.R. Part 11, FCC Rules and Regulations, Emergency Alert System (EAS) as pertains to day-to-day emergency operations.

INTRODUCTION

These procedures were prepared by the Indiana State Emergency Communications Committee, the Indiana State Emergency Management Agency, the Federal Communications Commission - Emergency Communications Division, the National Weather Service - Indianapolis, State and local officials, and the broadcasters and cable operators of Indiana. It provides background data and prescribes specific procedures for the broadcast and cable media to issue emergency information and warning to the general public in Indiana or any portion thereof within the broadcast coverage and cable system service area, at the request of designated State and Federal government officials.

Acceptance of or participation in this plan shall not be deemed to prohibit a licensee or cable operator from exercising its independent discretion and responsibility in any given situation. The concept of management of each broadcast station or cable system to exercise discretion regarding the transmission of emergency messages and instructions to the general public is provided by FCC Rules and Regulations, Part 11. Broadcast stations and cable systems originating emergency communications shall be deemed to have conferred rebroadcast authority as specified in Section § 11.54.

Detailed procedures, agreed upon by the broadcast and cable industries and the local area governments, which will permit designated government officials to issue local emergency messages and instructions, via the EAS in threatened or actual emergencies, are attached to this plan as individual appendices for each EAS local Area.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Listening and viewing habits of the public are inherent factors of consideration and are conducive to the positive effectiveness of the Indiana EAS. The instinctive reaction of the average person is to turn on their radio or television set in time of emergency. However, continuing public education is required to increase public awareness of the Indiana EAS as an established medium for the receipt and distribution of emergency information to the general public at the local, State, and National levels.

DEFINITIONS

Emergency: A situation posing an extraordinary threat to the safety of life and property. Examples are, but not limited to, natural situations such as: tornadoes, flash floods, icing conditions, heavy snows, widespread fires; and man-made situations such as: discharge of toxic gases, widespread power failures, industrial explosions, civil disorders and nuclear incidents.

Severe Weather Watch: A severe weather WATCH indicates that the probabilities of a particular severe weather storm are high, and is an alert to the public of such severe weather conditions.

Severe Weather Warning: A severe weather WARNING indicates that a particular severe weather storm has actually been sighted in an area or indicated by radar, and serves notice to the public that severe weather conditions are almost certain to occur.

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 (see Annex A).

ACTIVATION

The Indiana EAS is activated by a request from authorized officials to the State's EAS State Primary (SP) source. The SP source, WFBQ(FM), is in Indianapolis, and is key with respect to activation of the EAS at the State level. All Local Primary (LP) sources in each EAS Local Area and State Relay (SR) sources should monitor the above sources, or according to the Indiana EAS State Relay Network (see Annex E) for further dissemination of State level emergency information to all other stations and cable systems and the public.

GENERAL PROCEDURES FOR USE OF BROADCAST STATION AND CABLE SYSTEMS

- A. When a severe weather WATCH is issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) for the State of Indiana, stations and cable systems in Indiana can receive hard copy of the WATCH over any of the following teletype networks: Associated Press (AP), United Press International (UPI), or the NOAA Weather Wire.
- B. When a severe weather WARNING is issued by the NWS for the State of Indiana, the NWS or another designated official will notify the SP source, WFBQ(FM), through NOAA Weather Radio, telephone, two-way radio, etc.

- C. When a statewide emergency exists, the Governor or a designated official from the list provided to broadcasters and cable operators will determine whether or not to request activation of the Indiana EAS through the SP source.
- D. For unique emergency situations not involving the entire state, authorities may request EAS activation through the Local Primary (LP) source serving the affected EAS Local Area.
- E. The Indiana State Emergency Communications Committee and the Indiana Office of Emergency Services will issue a list of authorized officials and authentication procedures for requesting activation of the Indiana EAS (see Annexes A and B). These are published on a need to know basis.

COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE INDIANA OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES, THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN INDIANAPOLIS, AND THE BROADCAST AND CABLE FACILITIES OF INDIANA

- A. Commercial telephone exists between the Indiana Office of Emergency Services, the NWS in Indiana, and the broadcast and cable facilities of the state (see attached listing).
- B. NOAA Weather Wire and NOAA Weather Radio exist as other links between the NWS and Indiana broadcasting and cable facilities.
- C. Remote pickup units (two-way radios) are available between the Indiana Emergency Operating Center and the SP source WFBQ(FM).

IMPLEMENTATION

- A. Procedures for Activating Officials.
 - 1. Request activation of the EAS facilities through WFBQ(FM), (State Primary source), using prearranged authentication procedures (see Annex B) as soon as possible.
 - 2. Work out program details (i.e., live or recorded, immediate or delayed) with broadcast and cable personnel.
 - 3. It is recommended that government officials use the following format when delivering the emergency announcement. The format is deliberately general in nature to allow for uniqueness of each emergency situation, yet broad enough to ensure completeness.

Important Note: When relaying EAS messages, broadcasters and cable operators have the option of transmitting only the EAS header and EOM codes without the Attention Signal and emergency announcement. This is acceptable so that EAS coded messages can be quickly relayed through areas unaffected by the emergency.

2. Each broadcast station and cable system, upon receipt of a State level emergency action notification will, at the discretion of management, perform the same procedures as outlined in B.1. above, including recording all emergency messages.
3. To avoid unnecessary escalation of public confusion, all broadcast stations and cable systems must be cautious in providing information and news pertaining to 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.
4. Upon completion of the above transmission procedures, resume normal programming. Appropriate notations should be made in station and cable records and logs of all significant events. These records should be carefully preserved in the event they are required at some later date (FCC Regulations, Section § 11.55). Stations and cable systems may send a very brief summary to the FCC for information purposes.
5. If operations were not concluded as specified in B.1.e. above, upon receipt of the termination notice from the activating official, make the following announcement and transmit the EOM code:

"THIS CONCLUDES OPERATIONS UNDER THE INDIANA EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM. ALL BROADCAST STATIONS AND CABLE SYSTEMS MAY NOW RESUME NORMAL OPERATIONS."

TESTS

Statewide tests of the Indiana Emergency Alert System will be conducted at a frequency adequate to assure the successful operation of the system. Tests will be initiated by the broadcast and cable chairs of the State Emergency Communications Committee in coordination with the Indiana Office of Emergency Services.

ANNEX A

LIST OF OFFICIALS DESIGNATED TO ACTIVATE THE INDIANA EAS

The Honorable Frank L. O'Bannon
Governor of Indiana
State House - Room 206
200 West Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 232-4567

The Honorable Joseph E. Kernan
Lieutenant Governor of Indiana
State House - Room 333
200 West Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 232-4545

Patrick R. Ralston
Executive Director, Indiana State Emergency Management Agency
Indiana Government Center South
302 West Washington St.
Room E208
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 232-3980

Melvin J. Carraway
Superintendent, Indiana State Police
Indiana Government Center North
Room 301
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 232-8250

John T. Curran
Meteorologist in Charge
National Weather Service
6900 W. Hanna Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46241-9526
(317) 856-0361, x642

ANNEX B

AUTHENTICATION PROCEDURES TO BE USED TO ACTIVATE THE INDIANA EAS

The authentication to be used for activation will be determined by the management of the State Primary source, WFBQ(FM) and concerned officials. One method is to call back the appropriate number below with authentication codes if they are used as part of the authentication process.

Note: National Weather Service (NWS) warnings received via NOAA Weather Wire, NOAA Weather Wire or AP, Reuters and UPI wire services do not need additional authentication.

1. Indiana State EOC
Indianapolis 1-317-232-3830
1-317-232-1374

2. National Weather Service
Indianapolis 1-800-449-2133
1-317-856-0359

ANNEX C

INDIANA STATE RELAY NETWORK

STATE PRIMARY SOURCE

WFBQ(FM)	Indianapolis	94.7 MHz
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STATE RELAY SOURCES

WTTS(FM)	Bloomington	92.3 MHz
WMEE(FM)	Fort Wayne	97.3 MHz
WMRI(FM)	Marion	106.9 MHz
WNSN(FM)	South Bend	101.5 MHz
WZZQ(FM)	Terre Haute	107.5 MHz
WWBL(FM)	Washington	106.5 MHz

LOCAL PRIMARY SOURCE(S) -1

WASK-FM	Battle Ground	98.7 MHz
WTTS(FM)	Bloomington	92.3 MHz
WAJI(FM)	Fort Wayne	95.1 MHz
WOWO(AM)	Fort Wayne	1190 kHz
WIBC(AM)	Indianapolis	1070 kHz
WFMS(FM)	Indianapolis	95.5 MHz
WASK(AM)	Lafayette	1450 kHz
WKOA(FM)	Lafayette	105.3 MHz
WINN(FM)	North Vernon	106.1 MHz
WNVI(AM)	North Vernon	1460 kHz
WFMG(FM)	Richmond	101.3 MHz
WSLM(AM)	Salem	1220 kHz
WSLM-FM	Salem	97.9 MHz
WSBT(AM)	South Bend	960 kHz
WNSN(FM)	South Bend	101.5 MHz
WZZQ(FM)	Terre Haute	107.5 MHz
WBUZ(AM)	Terre Haute	1230 kHz
WWBL(FM)	Washington	106.5 MHz

LOCAL PRIMARY SOURCE(S) -2

WKKG(FM)	Columbus	101.5 MHz
WKDQ-FM	Evansville	99.5 MHz
WMEE(FM)	Fort Wayne	97.3 MHz
WFBQ(FM)	Indianapolis	94.7 MHz
WFMS(FM)	Indianapolis	95.5 MHz
WAZY(FM)	Lafayette	96.5 MHz
WHAS(AM)	Louisville	840 kHz
WAMZ(FM)	Louisville	97.5 MHz
WQLK(FM)	Richmond	96.1 MHz
WNDV(AM)	South Bend	1490 kHz
WNDV-FM	South Bend	92.9 MHz
WTHI-FM	Terre Haute	99.9 MHz
WAKE(AM)	Valparaiso	1500 kHz
WLJE(FM)	Valparaiso	105.5 MHz
WZVN(FM)	Lowell (Northwest)	107.1 MHz
WXR(AM)	Crown Point (Northwest)	103.9 MHz
WZDM(FM)	Vincennes	92.1 MHz

ANNEX D

TEXT FOR REQUIRED MONTHLY TEST (RMT)

1. Discontinue normal programming
You must inform your audience that you are performing a test of the EAS equipment.

TV Stations must display an appropriate EAS slide or graphic.
2. Transmit this announcement locally
"This is a test of the Emergency Alert System. (Insert station call sign) serves the (Local area name)."
3. Retransmit/Originate
Use the EAS encoder to retransmit the header codes and two-tone attention signal. LP-1 stations will originate the RMT whenever a scheduled State test is not received from the State Primary.

TV Stations must visually and aurally transmit header code data.
4. Retransmit the monthly text or transmit the monthly text locally
"This is a coordinated monthly test of the broadcast stations of your area. Equipment that can quickly warn you during emergencies is being tested. If this had been an actual emergency such as a tornado or flash flood or a civil emergency warning, official messages would have followed the alert tone. This station serves your local area. This concludes this test of the Emergency Alert System."
5. Transmit the End of Message (EOM) Codes
Use the station EAS encoder to transmit the EOM code. **VERY IMPORTANT!**
6. Resume Normal Programming and Log
Resume Normal Programming and Log receipt and transmission of the test.

TV Stations may continue crawling text message over the next program element.

ANNEX E

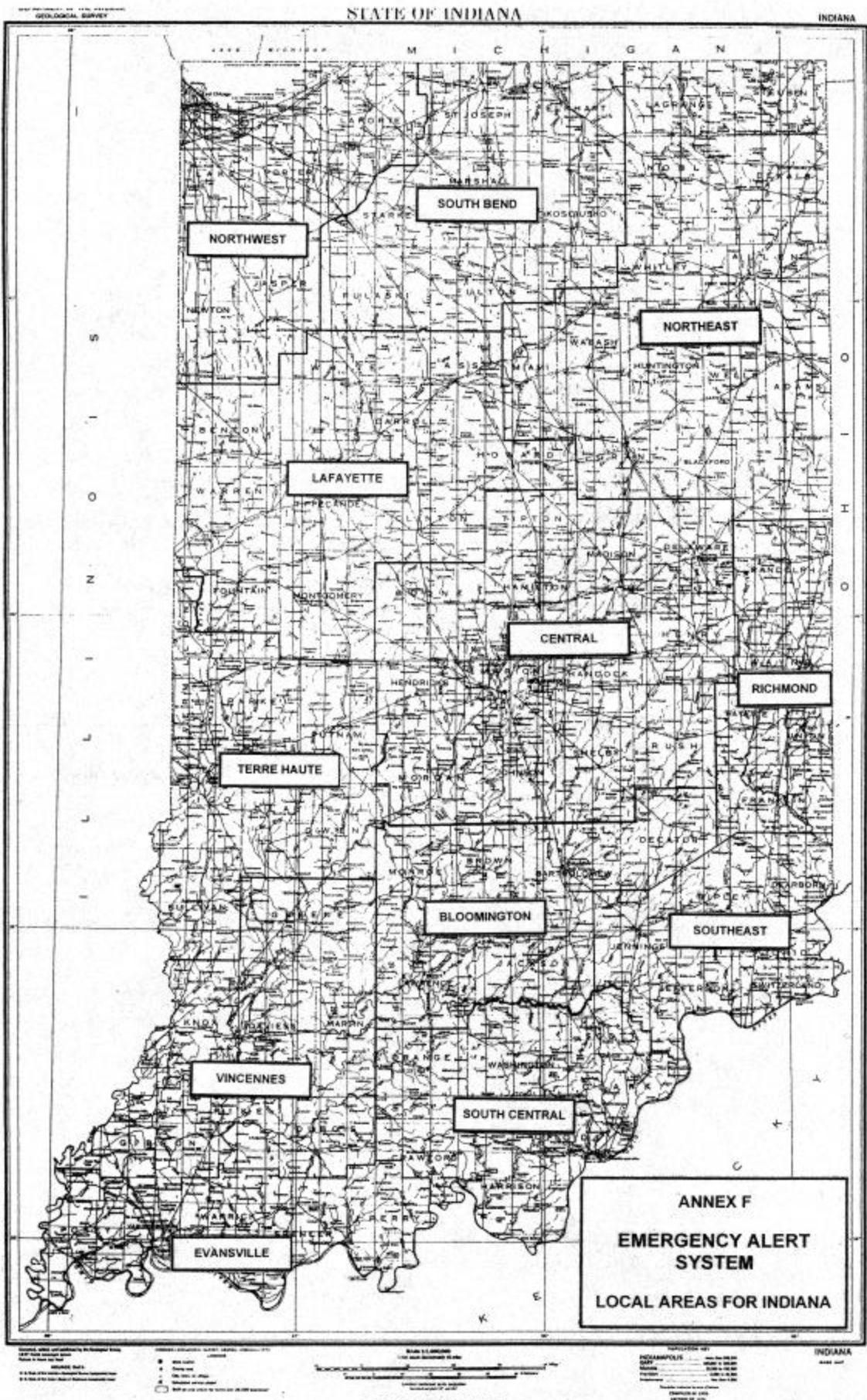
MONITORING ASSIGNMENTS

<u>local area</u>	<u>station</u>	<u>monitoring assignment</u>
Bloomington	WTTS(FM) & WGTC(AM)	#1 - WFBQ(FM), 94.7 MHz, Indianapolis #2 - WLW(AM), 700 kHz, Cincinnati
	WKKG(FM) & WCSI(AM)	#1 - WTTS(FM), 92.3 MHz, Bloomington #2 - WFBQ(FM), 94.7 MHz, Indianapolis
	all other stations and all cable systems	#1 - WTTS(FM), 92.3 MHz, Bloomington #2 - WKKG(FM), 101.5 MHz, Columbus
Central	WIBC(AM)	#1 - WFBQ(FM), 94.7 MHz, Indianapolis #2 - WLW(AM), 700 kHz, Cincinnati
	WFMS(FM)	#1 - WIBC(AM), 1070 kHz, Indianapolis #2 - WFBQ(FM), 94.7 MHz, Indianapolis
	all stations and all cable systems in Delaware, Henry, Madison, Morgan and Rush Counties <i>except</i> WEEM(FM) in Pendleton and WKPW(FM) in Knightstown	#1 - WFMS(FM), 95.5 MHz, Indianapolis #2 - WFBQ(FM), 94.7 MHz, Indianapolis
	all other stations and all other cable systems	#1 - WIBC(AM), 1070 kHz, Indianapolis #2 - WFMS(FM), 95.5 MHz, Indianapolis
Evansville	WKDQ-FM	#1 - WWBL(FM), 106.5 MHz, Washington #2 - NOAA Weather Radio
	all other stations and all cable systems	#1 - WKDQ-FM, 99.5 MHz, Evansville #2 - NOAA Weather Radio
Lafayette	WKOA(FM) & WASK AM/FM	#1 - WFBQ(FM), 94.7, Indianapolis #2 - WLS(AM), 890 kHz, Chicago
	WAZY(FM)	#1 - WKOA(FM), 105.3 MHz, Lafayette #2 - WFBQ(FM), 94.7 MHz, Indianapolis
	all other stations and all cable systems	#1 - WKOA(FM), 105.3 MHz, Lafayette or WASK(AM), 1450 kHz, Lafayette or WASK-FM, 98.7 MHz, Battle Ground #2 - WAZY(FM), 96.5 MHz, Lafayette
Northeast	WOWO(AM) & WAJI(FM)	#1 - WMRI(FM), 106.9 MHz, Marion #2 - WLW(AM), 700 kHz, Cincinnati
	WMEE(FM) & WMRI(FM)	#1 - WOWO(AM), 1190 kHz, Fort Wayne or WAJI(FM), 95.1 MHz, Fort Wayne #2 - WFBQ(FM), 94.7 MHz, Indianapolis
	all other stations and all cable systems	#1 - WOWO(AM), 1190 kHz, Fort Wayne or WAJI(FM), 95.1 MHz, Fort Wayne #2 - WMEE(FM), 97.3 MHz, Fort Wayne

<u>local area</u>	<u>station</u>	<u>monitoring assignment</u>
Northwest	WLJE(FM), WAKE(AM), WXRD(FM) & WZVN(FM)	#1 - WNSN(FM), 101.5 MHz, South Bend #2 - WLS(AM), 890 kHz, Chicago
	all other stations and all cable systems	#1 - WLJE(FM), 105.5 MHz, Valparaiso or WAKE(AM), 1500 kHz, Valparaiso #2 - NOAA Weather Radio
Richmond	WFMG(FM) & WKBV(AM)	#1 - WFBQ(FM), 94.7 MHz, Indianapolis #2 - WLW(AM), 700 kHz, Cincinnati
	WQLK(FM) & WHON(AM)	#1 - WFMG(FM), 101.3 MHz, Richmond #2 - WFBQ(FM), 94.7 MHz, Indianapolis
	all other stations and all cable systems	#1 - WFMG(FM), 101.3 MHz, Richmond #2 - WQLK(FM), 96.1 MHz, Richmond
South Bend	WNSN(FM) & WSBT(AM)	#1 - WMEE(FM), 97.3 MHz, Fort Wayne #2 - WLS(AM), 890 kHz, Chicago
	WNDV AM/FM	#1 - WNSN(FM), 101.5 MHz, South Bend or WSBT(AM), 960 kHz, South Bend #2 - WMEE(FM), 97.3 MHz, Fort Wayne
	all other stations and all cable systems	#1 - WNSN(FM), 101.5 MHz, South Bend or WSBT(AM), 960 kHz, South Bend #2 - WNDV-FM, 92.9 MHz, South Bend or WNDV(AM), 1490 kHz, South Bend
South Central	WWWY(FM)	#1 - WTTS(FM), 92.3 MHz, Bloomington #2 - WLW(AM), 700 kHz, Cincinnati
	WHAS(AM) & WAMZ(FM)	#1 - WWWWY(FM) 106.1 MHz, North Vernon #2 - WLW(AM), 700 kHz, Cincinnati
	all other stations and all cable systems	#1 - WWWWY(FM), 106.1 MHz, North Vernon #2 - WHAS(AM), 840 kHz, Louisville or WAMZ(FM), 97.5 MHz, Louisville
Southeast	WWWY(FM)	#1 - WTTS(FM), 92.3 MHz, Bloomington #2 - WLW(AM), 700 kHz, Cincinnati
	WHAS(AM) WAMZ(FM)	#1 - WWWWY(FM), 106.1 MHz, North Vernon #2 - WLW(AM), 700 kHz, Cincinnati
	all other stations and all cable systems	#1 - WWWWY(FM), 106.1 MHz, North Vernon #2 - WHAS(AM), 840 kHz, Louisville or WAMZ(FM), 97.5 MHz, Louisville

<u>local area</u>	<u>station</u>	<u>monitoring assignment</u>
Terre Haute	WTHI-FM	#1 - WFBQ(FM), 94.7 MHz, Indianapolis #2 - WLS(AM), 890 kHz, Chicago
	all other stations and all cable systems	#1 - WTHI-FM, 99.9 MHz, Terre Haute #2 - NOAA Weather Radio
Vincennes	WWBL(FM)	#1 - WTHI-FM, 99.9 MHz, Terre Haute #2 - WSM(AM), 650 kHz, Nashville
	WZDM(FM)	#1 - WWBL(FM), 106.5 MHz, Washington #2 - WTHI-FM, 99.9 MHz, Terre Haute
	all other stations and all cable systems	#1 - WWBL(FM), 106.5 MHz, Washington #2 - WZDM(FM), 92.1 MHz., Vincennes

Optional: All stations and cable systems are encouraged to monitor the nearest NOAA Weather Radio station serving their Local Area, and may also monitor additional key EAS sources from adjacent EAS Local Areas as they may deem necessary, as long as the minimum #1 and #2 monitoring assignments as shown in this Annex are met.



ANNEX G

LOCAL AREAS & COUNTIES

<u>county</u>	<u>local area</u>	<u>county</u>	<u>local area</u>
Adams	Northeast	Lawrence	Bloomington
Allen	Northeast	Madison	Central
Bartholomew	Bloomington	Marion	Central
Benton	Lafayette	Marshall	South Bend
Blackford	Northeast	Martin	Vincennes
Boone	Central	Miami	Northeast
Brown	Bloomington	Monroe	Bloomington
Carroll	Lafayette	Montgomery	Lafayette
Cass	Lafayette	Morgan	Central
Clark	South Central	Newton	Northwest
Clay	Terre Haute	Noble	Northeast
Clinton	Lafayette	Ohio	Southeast
Crawford	South Central	Orange	South Central
Daviess	Vincennes	Owen	Terre Haute
Dearborn	Southeast	Parke	Terre Haute
Decatur	Bloomington	Perry	Evansville
Dekalb	Northeast	Pike	Vincennes
Delaware	Central	Porter	Northwest
Dubois	Vincennes	Posey	Evansville
Elkhart	South Bend	Pulaski	South Bend
Fayette	Richmond	Putnam	Terre Haute
Floyd	South Central	Randolph	Richmond
Fountain	Lafayette	Ripley	Southeast
Franklin	Richmond	Rush	Central
Fulton	South Bend	St. Joseph	South Bend
Gibson	Vincennes	Scott	South Central
Grant	Northeast	Shelby	Central
Greene	Vincennes	Spencer	Evansville
Hamilton	Central	Starke	South Bend
Hancock	Central	Steuben	Northeast
Harrison	South Central	Sullivan	Terre Haute
Hendricks	Central	Switzerland	Southeast
Henry	Central	Tippecanoe	Lafayette
Howard	Lafayette	Tipton	Central
Huntington	Northeast	Union	Richmond
Jackson	Bloomington	Vanderburgh	Evansville
Jasper	Northwest	Vermillion	Terre Haute
Jay	Northeast	Vigo	Terre Haute
Jefferson	Southeast	Wabash	Northeast
Jennings	Southeast	Warren	Lafayette
Johnson	Central	Warrick	Evansville
Knox	Vincennes	Washington	South Central
Kosciusko	South Bend	Wayne	Richmond
Lagrange	Northeast	Wells	Northeast
Lake	Northwest	White	Lafayette
LaPorte	Northwest	Whitley	Northeast

ANNEX J

INDIANA BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION

AMBER ALERT PLAN RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES FOR INDIANA RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS

September 16, 2002

What is the Amber Alert Plan?

The Amber Alert Plan is a cooperative effort between the Indiana radio and television stations and law enforcement agencies. The plan calls for law enforcement agencies to provide radio and television stations with an alert upon the immediate confirmation of a qualifying child abduction. All participating radio stations will break programming to broadcast the alert and subsequent information provided by law enforcement.

What is a “Qualifying Abduction?”

1. The child must be under 18 years of age.
2. The child must be believed to be abducted, and in danger of serious bodily harm or death.
3. There must be enough descriptive information to believe the broadcast will help.
4. Request must be recommended by the law enforcement agency of jurisdiction.

How will the radio and television stations obtain the information about child abductions?

When a law enforcement official determines a qualifying abduction has occurred, the communications center of Indiana State Police will be notified and provided with basic facts. ISP will confirm the accuracy of the information and issue an Amber Alert via the State Emergency Alert System (EAS).

Is our station(s) required to broadcast an Amber Alert?

No, but the success of the program depends greatly on the maximum number of people hearing the message and being on the lookout for the abductor. If a child in your community were abducted, you would certainly want the benefit of the Amber Alert Program.

When we receive an Amber Alert, what is the procedure?

The Amber Alert will come to your station via your EAS receiver as a civil emergency. Your receiver may be programmed for automatic interrupt of programming or delay. If delayed, we encourage you to broadcast the alert immediately, without operator intervention, otherwise within a minimum of 15 minutes. Getting the information on the air as soon as possible is the key factor. The most crucial time in abduction is the first one or two hours.

After receiving and broadcasting the initial Amber Alert, what should I do for follow-up?

The Amber Alert will only be sent one time over the EAS system. We ask that for the next two hours you broadcast the information at a minimum of every 30 minutes, then once an hour for the next three hours. This is done by either taping the original message and playing it back, transcribing the information and having your personnel read it over the air, or followed up by your news department. Whatever method you may use, it is important that the information be aired in the early hours of the abduction. After the 5 hour period has ended, the Amber Alert will be completed and any additional coverage will be purely at the stations option as a part of normal news and information programming.

What if my station is unmanned when an Amber Alert is issued?

Since the initial alert will come via an EAS Civil Emergency activation, the alert will override your normal programming just like a weather warning would do currently. (This assumes that when you operate unmanned you leave your EAS in auto-override mode). Once the EAS alert terminates it is up to you to decide how to staff your station to start the once-per-half-hour update. Remember, these are not required, just highly recommended.

Once the EAS activation occurs, where do I go to get the necessary information to follow the Amber Alert procedures?

You will have several options of where to get the very specific Amber Alert data. Stations may choose from the following resources.

1. Transcribe the information from your EAS receiver. Most receivers store the last message received.
2. Go to AmberAlertIndiana.com. The information will be available in printable form there.
3. Your news wire service (AP, Metrosource, etc.) will be provided with the information directly from the Indiana State Police.
4. The stations designated EAS e-mail address will receive the data directly from the Indiana State Police.
5. A fax will be sent to the designated EAS fax number at your station directly from ISP.

There are times during the day that we do not have personnel at the station. How can we broadcast an Amber Alert during those times?

Your EAS receiver is programmable to automatically interrupt your on-the-air programming. We suggest you use this process.

When is an Amber Alert completed?

An Amber Alert runs for 5 hours from the initial EAS alert. The first few hours are the most crucial. Under normal circumstances, the Amber Alert should be considered complete 5 hours after the initial EAS activation. The two exceptions to this rule would be if the ISP receive enough new or updated information to issue a new EAS activation. The process starts over from that time. The other exception would occur if the State Police were to determine that conditions warranted an early termination, stations would be notified through the previously outlined channels, including an EAS civil emergency notification.

What should be the policy of the station if a citizen calls to report an abduction?

The station should direct the person calling to police department designated in the Amber Alert.