



NOVEMBER 2011

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NEWS

EAS UPDATE

Final Preparations for the National EAS Test

The National EAS test is just one day away, to be held Nov. 9 at 2 p.m. ET/11 a.m. PT. In theory, the EAS unit you have had since 1994 should have always been able to relay the test with the EAN code.

If you haven't yet, take the time to ensure you have received the last weekly tests from your LP monitoring assignments. If you monitor a PEP station directly, check that you have received a test in the past week. Verify your EAS device in the program chain. Check the manufacturer's website for your EAS device for recent bulletins or upgrades.

Most importantly: This is intended to test the current state of EAS to handle an EAN. The SBE has observed efforts by some stations to add additional monitor feeds to their EAS units to ensure they will "pass" the test. That defeats the purpose of the test, which is to reveal shortcomings in the *current* system. Naturally, ensure the feeds you currently monitor are at their best.

Stations are to report their test results to FCC following the national test. If your station does not relay the test, note that on the FCC form and explain why. The FCC has indirectly said it will not penalize stations for not relaying the test if they are otherwise EAS compliant.

Other checks:

- * Download and post the FCC EAS Handbook for the Nov. 9 test. The handbook was revised late last week to reflect the shorter, 30 second test that was announced on November 3 and supersedes the existing EAS Handbook for your station just for the test.
- * TV stations: Prepare a slide (as noted in the National Test EAS Handbook) to display during the test. Because an actual emergency code is being used (EAN), the crawl from your EAS unit alone will not identify the exercise as a test.
- * Download and review the FEMA/IPAWS *Emergency Alert System Best Practices Guide - Version 1.0*.

After the test, broadcasters are asked to report their individual results. This online reporting system has three forms. Form 1 can be completed before the Nov. 9 test to provide background information on your facilities and equipment. Form 2 is to be completed on Nov. 9 (or shortly thereafter) to provide information on whether a station received the alert and whether it relayed the alert. Form 3 is to be completed between Nov. 10 and Dec. 24 to provide more detailed information on the success or failure of the test.

Many questions have arisen (and were posted on the SBE's EAS Exchange remailer) about needing to complete forms for all the various streams (i.e. HD Radio multicast), translators and boosters. In speaking with the FCC, the SBE has been told that it wants a form filed for each transmitter that relays the test. This includes boosters and translators. While the FCC and FEMA do not want to make extra work for stations, they are interested in seeing how the test propagated and where the holes in service lie. Each station is unique, and while the forms may not be completely clear, provide the best information you can when completing them.

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Another question has been raised as to whether the FCC Forms should use NAD27 or NAD83 coordinates. The SBE was told stations can use either system. For the broad stroke purposes of reporting, the differences between the two are not critical.

It's likely additional tests will be scheduled as shortcomings in the relay system are revealed. Remember, the test has been shortened from the original three minutes to 30 seconds, plus another 15 to 30 seconds for data burst tones.

Helpful Links:

FCC National EAS Test Website

This includes links to the reporting form, the Handbook, PSAs and other materials <http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/emergency-alert-system-nationwide-test>

FCC National Test EAS Handbook

<http://transition.fcc.gov/pshs/eas/EAS%20Handbook%20-%20National%20Test.pdf>

FEMA/IPAWS Best Practices Guide

http://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/ipaws/eas_best_practices_guide.pdf

FCC National Test Reporting Form

<http://apps.fcc.gov/easnt/home1.cfm>

Lat/Long Decimal Convertor

<http://transition.fcc.gov/mb/audio/bickel/DDDMSS-decimal.html>

SBE EAS Information

http://www.sbe.org/sections/gov_eas.php

SBE EAS Exchange - email discussion list for all things EAS

http://www.sbe.org/sections/eas_exchange.php

SBE members, Barry Thomas, CPBE and Chriss Scherer, CPBE, CBNT have produced a video showing how the EAS test will look to a station. Our thanks to Radio magazine, which posted the video.

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EL PASO, TX CHAPTER 38 MEETING MINUTE
DATE 10/11/2011 LOCATION: GrayBar, El Paso

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 12:26 PM, BY ANTONIO CASTRO,
THERE WERE 8 MEMBERS, 2 GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY: MINUTES ACCEPTED AS POSTED IN
THE NEWSLETTER BY NORBERT MILES

REPORT OF THE TREASURER: CURRENT BALANCE OF \$ 6,245.79,
(PIC-NIC COST DEDUCTED) ACCEPTED BY HECTOR DELGADO.

REPORT OF THE CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE: NO REPORT

REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: NO REPORT

REPORT OF THE FREQUENCY COORDINATOR COMMITTEE: NO RE-
PORT

REPORT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE: NO REPORT

REPORT OF THE WEB SITE COMMITTEE 636 HITS.

REPORT OF THE EAS CHAIRMAN : EXTENDED TIME FRAME
GRANTED. NOV. .9, 2011. (It is a lot of ignorance about it.)

REPORT OF THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE: RF TECHNOLOGIES OF
TEXAS TO REPEAT ITS PRESENTATION . IT WILL BE ON NOVEMBER
15, 2011 ALONG WITH THE CHAPTER MEETING.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: PAUL TERRY HAS NOTHING TO REPORT ON
ANTENNA SITES.

NEW BUSINESS OR ANY ITEMS FOR THE CHAPTER INTERES:
PIC-NIC WAS A RELATIVELY SUCCESS. FOOD WAS GREAT

NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION: NOVEMBER 15, 2011.
AT LUNCH TIME. LOCATION : COMO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT
ACROSS FROM CLEARCHANNEL

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR:

I will be traveling in a life time vacation
from October 17 thru November 10.

Sorry for the tardiness of this edition.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

October presentation was offered by **GrayBar** El Paso, and we enjoyed their hospitality. Thank you Angel Ramirez.

For November 15th, we have a combined meeting/lunch/presentation by **Dan Sessler**, from **RF Specialties of Texas** and **Ellis Terry** from **NAUTEL**.

Lunch and meeting will be at “**Como’s**” Italian restaurant located at 4300 North Mesa, just across from **ClearChannel Radio**.

Following lunch, there is an invitation from Norbert Miles (KTEP) to visit his transmitter site and to show his **NAUTEL FM** transmitter.

Everybody is welcome !!



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