

# Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)

Local Alert and Warning

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# Public Alert and Warning

## What if...



*Emergency Management Training Center*



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Statewide Emergency Communications Board  
has approved four codes for local use:

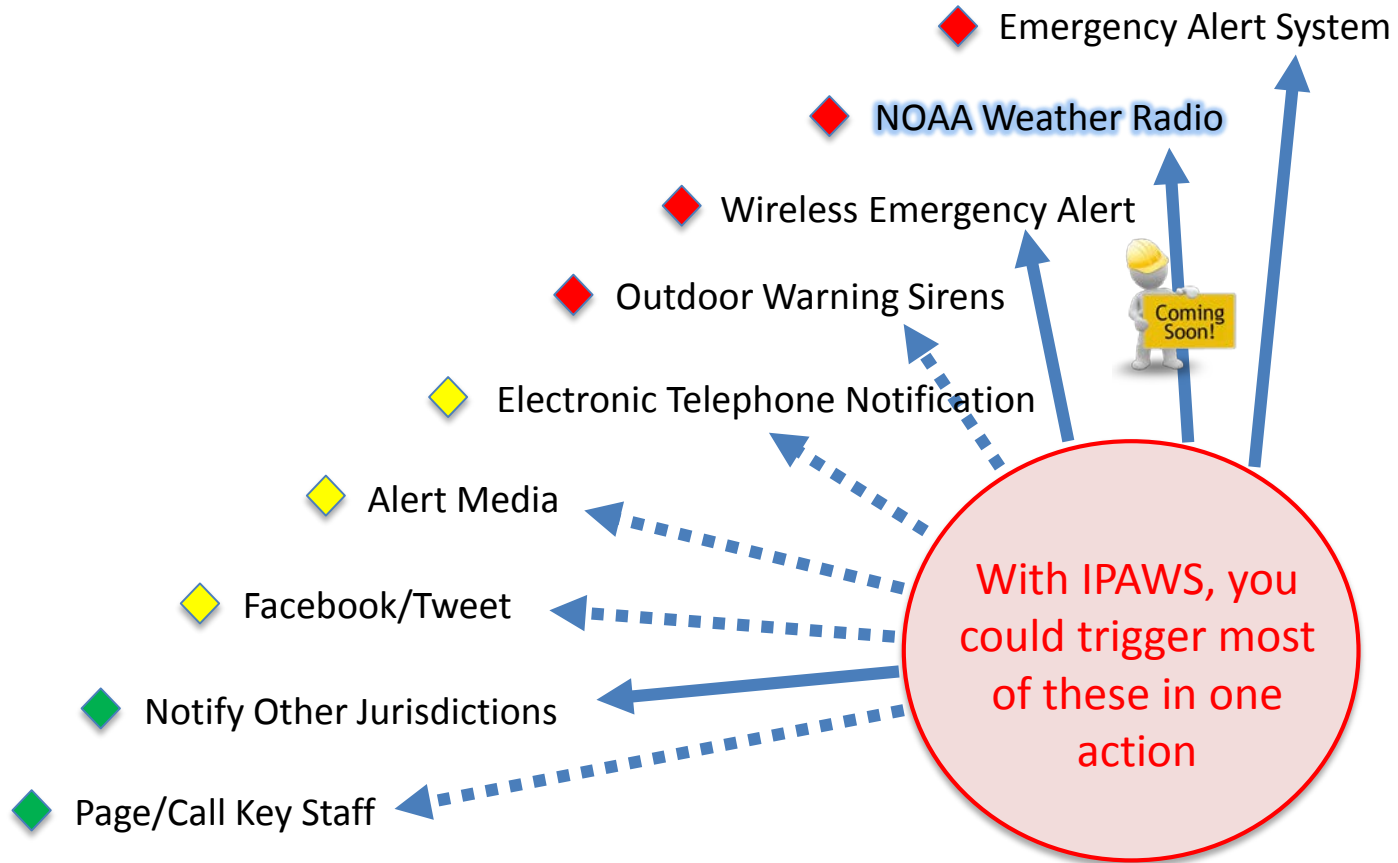
- Evacuate
- Shelter
- Civil Danger Warning (avoid area)
- Civil Emergency Message (boil water)

Warnings: Immediate Risk to Life and/or Property

- ◆ **EVI** Evacuate Immediately  
**SPW** Shelter in Place  
**CDW** Civil Danger Warning
- ➔ Meant to interrupt broadcast

- ◆ Emergency Messages  
**CEM** Civil Emergency Message
- ➔ Will not interrupt broadcast

# Emergency Notification Methods



**WEA is a free service and opt-out (except presidential alerts)  
Cell towers broadcast to WEA enabled cell phones in threat  
area.**

- Service is not subscription based. You only receive alert if you are in the threat area.***
- It is not SMS so it will not get delayed due to cell congestion.***

**WEA has a distinct vibration cadence and audio tone**

**If you travel into an alert area after the alert was originally  
sent, you should still receive it**





# Alerting Criteria

Urgency

Severity

Certainty

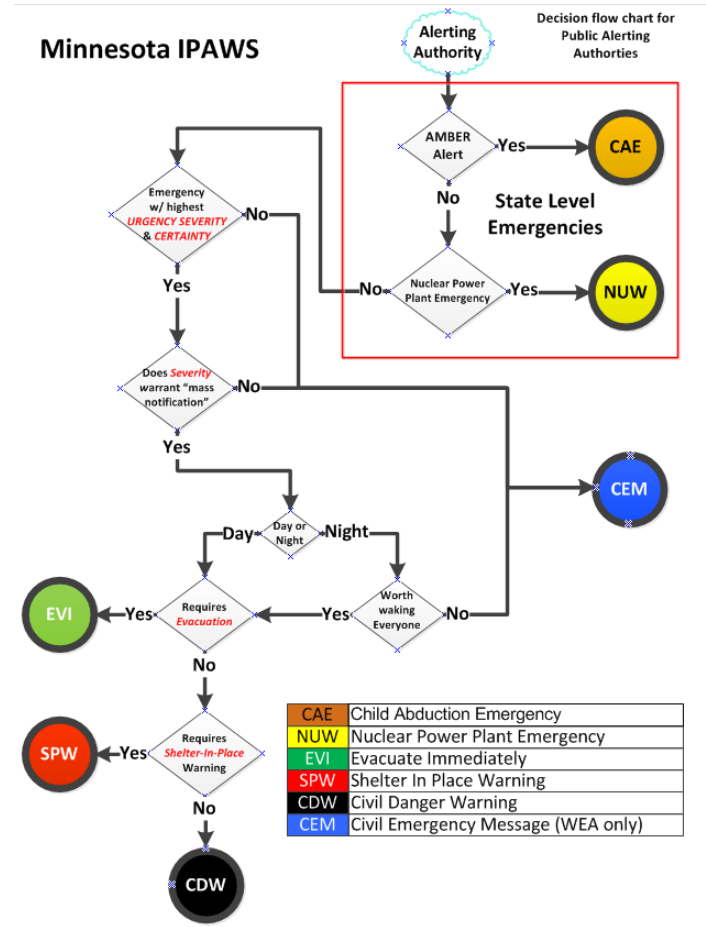
- Covers broadcast TV, radio, and cable
- Participation in state, local, and weather alerts is completely voluntary
- Public television and public radio in Minnesota are participating
- Check with your local commercial stations and cable operators
- Activating EAS can and usually will impact an audience beyond your county border.



# Public Alert and Warning

## Alerting Codes

The state EAS plan has a flow chart to help select the most appropriate event code and when to use it.



- Train carrying shale oil from North Dakota derails and catches fire in Glenwood, Minn. It is 1p.m. on a weekday.
- Incident commander advises an immediate evacuation of homes and businesses within ½ mile of the tracks and Highway 28 on the east side of Glenwood.
- How should IPAWS/mass notification be used for this?



## Sample of what EAS/WEA messages could look like

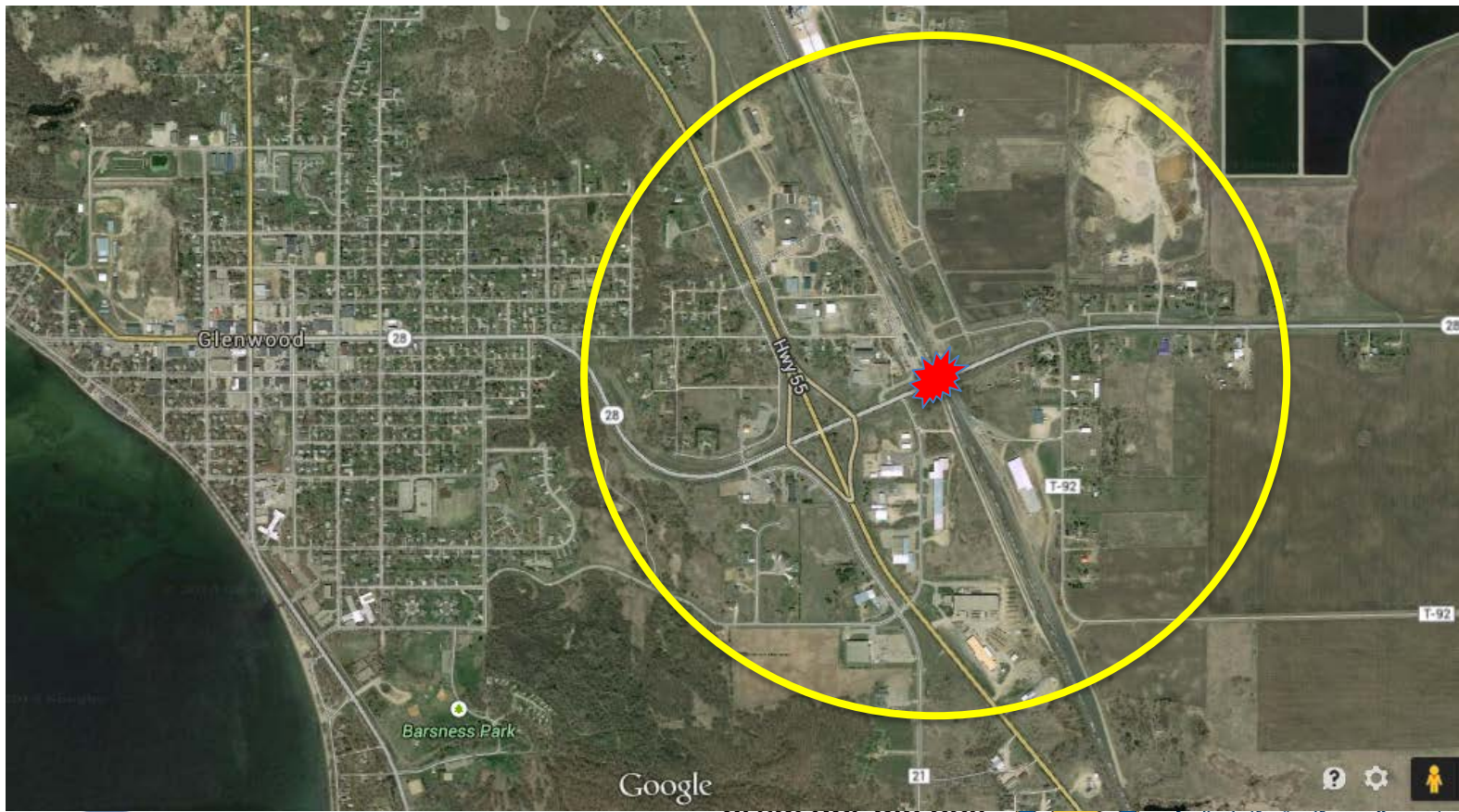
Headline (140 Char.): Pope County sheriff advises evacuation for everyone within 1/2 mile of HWY 28 and rail crossing in Glenwood due to tank car fire

Description: A train of tank cars carrying crude oil has derailed and caught fire in Glenwood, Minn.

Instructions: Pope County sheriff has advised an evacuation of all homes and businesses within half mile of the rail crossing at Highway 28 in the eastern part of Glenwood...

WEA (90 Char): Pope County sheriff advises evacuation ½ mile of chemical fire at HWY 28 & rail crossing

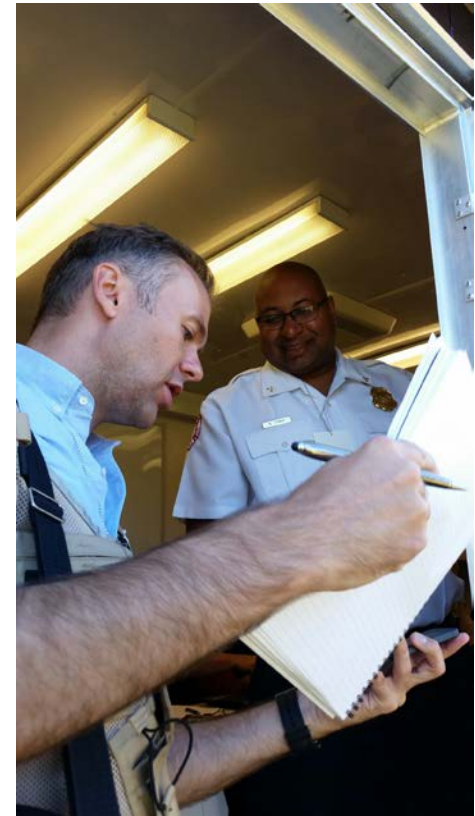




- No *single* communications system will alert *everyone*
  - Not everyone will be tuned into TV or radio
  - Not everyone will hear sirens
  - Not everyone owns a weather radio
- Reaching the whole community requires communicating on as many pathways as possible
- Many people will not react until they have received warning from more than one source

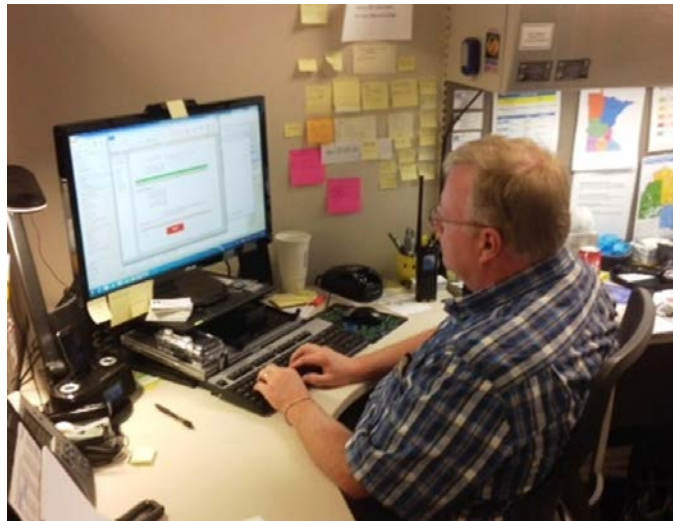


- An initial IPAWS alert can be followed with additional alerts as conditions change or worsen.
- At some point Public Information Officer takes over messaging.



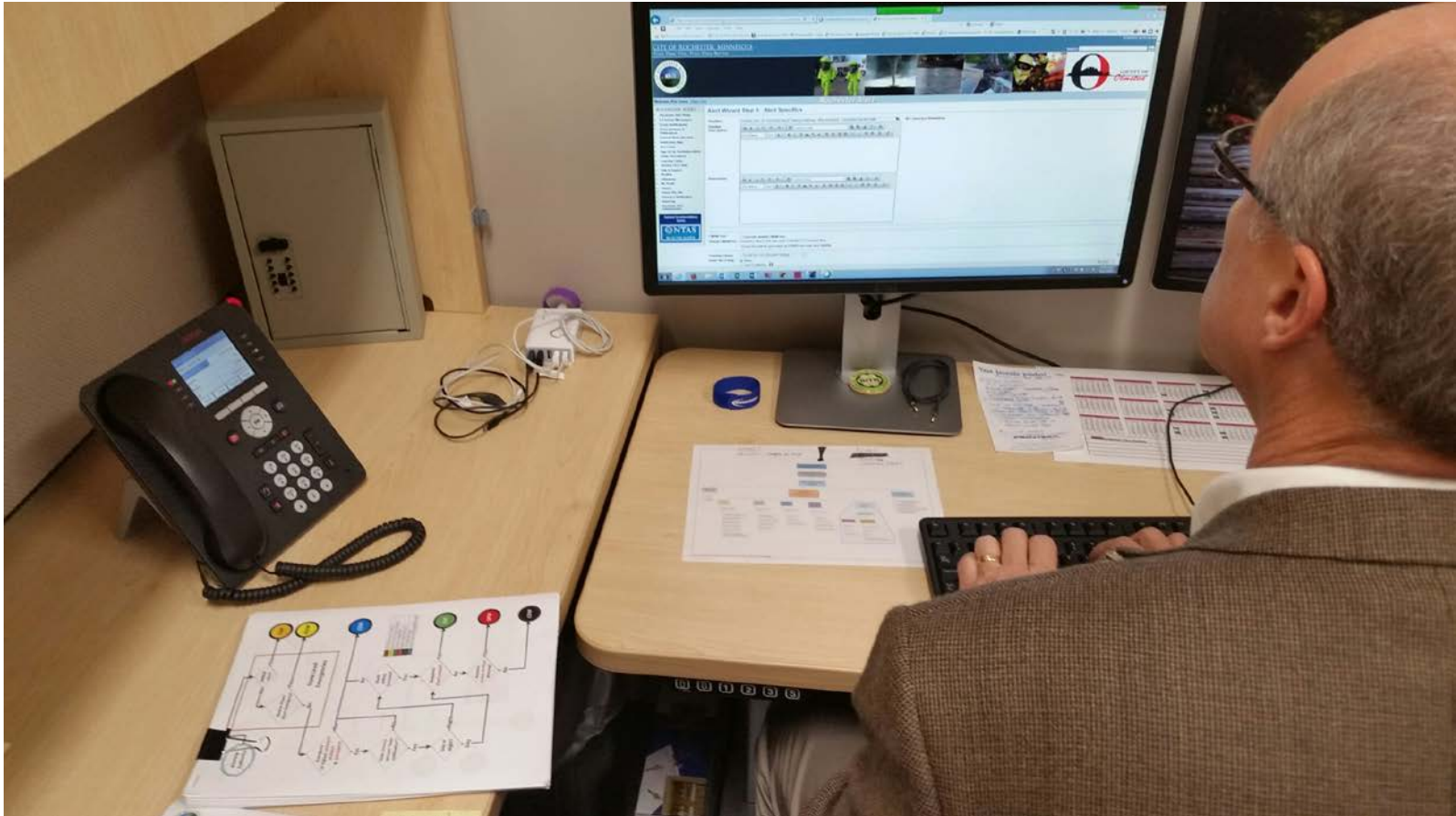


- Train using practice scenarios.
- Incorporate IPAWS into all future exercises.
- Practice writing out the messages you would send.
- Use exercises to refine your message templates.
- Exercises help public safety leaders understand IPAWS capability.



# Public Alert and Warning

# Multi-Lingual capabilities



- COG means Collaborative Operating Group.
- IPAWS software can send messages between COGs.
- Basically, any agency (including N.G.O.s) can be a COG and send IPAWS messages.
- Only certain COGs will be allowed public alerting authority for EAS, NWEM, and WEA.
- COG to COG may become a powerful tool in the future for coordinating responses and exchanging time critical information.

**Much faster than making a bunch of phone calls!**

# Public Alert and Warning

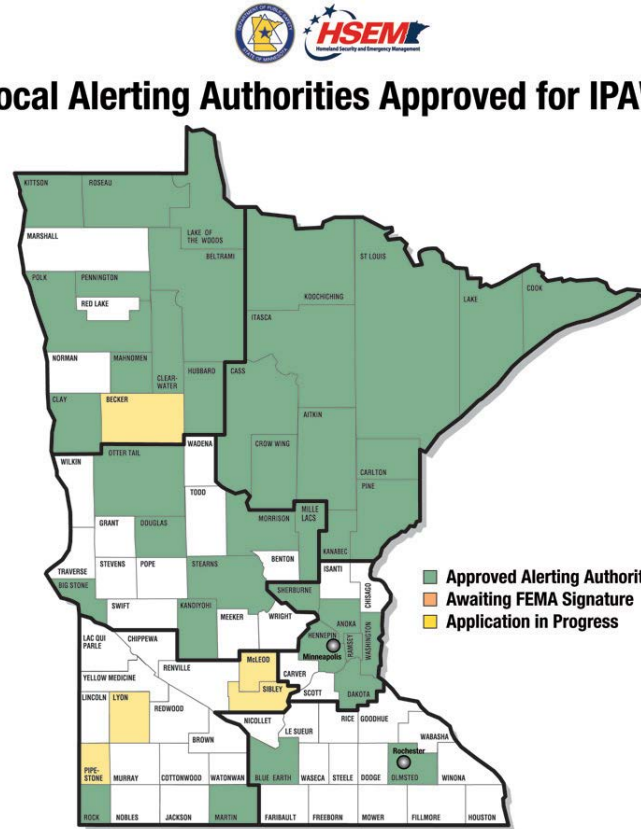
# IPAWS ready counties

COG Status as of 9-30-2015

Yellow = Alerting authority application in process

Green = Alerting authority granted

## Local Alerting Authorities Approved for IPAWS

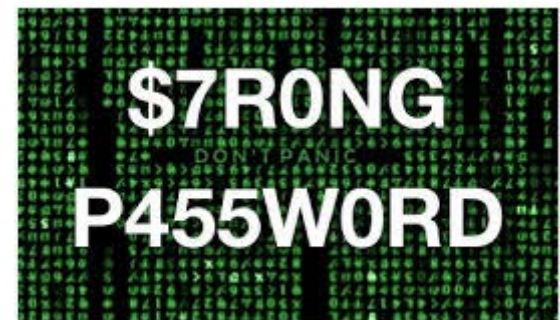


- Who has the authority in your county to order an IPAWS alert?
- Who can access the system to launch the alert?
- How is it accessed? Who is responsible for system security?
- Have all operators been trained? Is it documented?
- Are there pre-scripted messages stored in the system?





- Each user must have his/her own password.
- They cannot be shared!
- Passwords must be strong.
- Must be changed every 90 days.
- Can't leave workstation unattended without logging off.
- Technical Point of Contact responsible for system security.



1. Take FEMA training
2. Select alert origination software
3. Execute MOA with FEMA
4. Develop templates
5. Talk to your local broadcasters
6. Develop SOPs
7. Train your staff
8. Brief your public safety leaders on IPAWS capabilities
9. ***Exercise, Exercise, Exercise!***



**THIS IS KEY**

# Questions

