



Homeland
Security

December 12, 2008

OASIS
Emergency Management Technical Committee
630 Boston Road, Suite M-102
Billerica, MA 01821

SUBJECT: Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Common Alerting Protocol for the
Emergency Alert System

To The OASIS EM TC:

On behalf of the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) Program Management Office (PMO) and the Science and Technology Directorate, we would like to submit the attached document for a Profile review and formalization by the Emergency Management Technical Committee (EM-TC) under the OASIS process.

This document provides an initial set of requirements and technical specifications for creating an IPAWS Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Version 1.1 Profile. We would therefore like to ask that you and the EM-TC review these materials at your earliest convenience to verify that they fit within the EM-TC charter. This proposal represents an urgent and key Profile. We request that OASIS, the Technical Committee and membership refine and formalize this Profile as quickly as possible, so it can be implemented by industry during FY2009.

This document proposal was developed by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) FEMA IPAWS PMO and the Science and Technology (S&T) Office for Interoperability and Compatibility (OIC). The immediate purpose of this Profile is to support the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) Part 11 ruling to support CAP within the Emergency Alert System (EAS). Please keep in mind that not every mission objective of the IPAWS Program and the alert & warning community has been addressed in the Profile Requirements document at this time. Matters such as security, multiple languages, special needs, and video and cellular alerts are to be addressed in our future work.

The Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) is the Nation's next generation public communications and warning capability. It enables the timely dissemination of information before, during and after an emergency. FEMA and the IPAWS PMO are working with the public and private sectors to integrate warning systems that allow the President and authorized officials to effectively provide alerts to state and local Emergency Operations Centers and the public via analog and digital television, radio, digital cable television, Digital Audio Broadcast (DAB), telephone, cell phone, pagers, computers, Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS), Satellite Digital Audio Radio System

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(SDARS), and other communications methods. In order to accomplish this mission, data exchange messages utilizing the OASIS Emergency Data Exchange Language CAP (EDXL-CAP v1.1) will be used to facilitate the rapid delivery of this information across these various systems (sometimes referred to as the IPAWS “systems of systems”). The intent of the IPAWS CAP v1.1 Profile is to enable an emergency manager to issue one single message that shall be delivered by several different and distinct means to populations at risk.

We look forward to hearing from you as quickly as possible in order to initiate this vital work for alerting the public. Thank you, and please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Lance Craver
Program Director
FEMA IPAWS

Denis Gusty
Program Manager
DHS OIC PMO

Cc: Elysa Jones, EM TC Chair

Attachment: FEMA IPAWS CAP v1.1 Profile Requirements, v2.4