



Understanding the Emergency Alert System

On a National Level



The Emergency Alert System (EAS) is a national public warning system that requires broadcasters, cable television systems, wireless cable systems, satellite digital audio radio service (SDARS) providers, and direct broadcast satellite (DBS) providers to enable the President to address the American

public during a national emergency. The system also may be used by state and local authorities to deliver important emergency information.

Here in Kitsap County

It is the policy of the Kitsap County government to activate the EAS in order to alert and warn residents of life threatening emergencies. This method will be utilized only when time limitations or incident severity prohibits information distribution to the media by normal channels.

The EAS Message

Messages are limited to two minutes and will contain concise warning instructions for the public. Before the message is broadcast or displayed, two 8-second attention bursts are initiated and the upcoming message is announced.

After EAS activation, further instructions and information will be made to the public.

Examples of EAS Messages:

- Any hazardous materials event that requires evacuation or shelter-in-place of citizens
- Fast moving urban Wildland fire that threatens communities
- Dam failure that threatens neighborhoods
- Loss of 911 communications
- Terrorism or law enforcement event that may endanger Kitsap County Citizens
- Tsunami Warning that threatens citizens in County coastal areas.
- Civil Emergencies local to Kitsap County

