DRAFT

VERMONT
EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM
PLAN

The State of Vermont Emergency Alert System Plan was prepared by the Vermont State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC) in partnership with the Vermont Association of Broadcasters, Vermont Emergency Management, the Federal Communications Commission, The National Weather Service, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the New England Cable Television Association.

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PREFACE

This Plan revises the State of Vermont Emergency Broadcast System (EBS) Plan to the FCC recently enacted Emergency Alert System (EAS). It orchestrates many memoranda, practices and innovations brought about by tests and activations of the predecessor EBS and the new EAS technology.

The plan was written to be easily understood by those involved with: 1) providing protective action guidance to the public, 2) requesting and activating EAS officials, and 3) others who have active roles in the successful implementation of EAS in the State of Vermont.

DEFINITIONS

Definition cited here are supplemented by the Attachment E "Glossary of Terms" and Attachment F "Acronyms".

EMERGENCY: A situation posing a threat to the safety of life and property. Examples are, but not limited to: hurricanes, floods, tidal waves, earthquakes, icing conditions, heavy snows, widespread power failures, industrial explosions, civil disorders and nuclear incidents or attack.

SEVERE WEATHER: Wind gusts that are equal to or greater than 58 miles per hour, hail three-quarters (3/4) of an inch in diameter, or the possibility of a tornado.

SEVERE WEATHER WATCH: A NWS indication that there is a possibility of severe weather. It is an alert to the public of possible severe weather conditions.

SEVERE WEATHER WARNING: A NWS indication that a severe storm has actually been sighted in the area or indicated by radar. It serves notice to the public that severe weather conditions are imminent.

AUTHORIZED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS: The person or persons designated by government signatory to this plan that have the authority to request statewide and operational area (multi-community) activation of the Emergency Alert System and to make emergency announcements/broadcasts.

RECORD OF PAGE CHANGES

Date	Amendment #	Person Entering Change

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

EAS CHECKLIST

(Obtain EAS monitoring assignments from Moe Forcier at Vermont Emergency Management, then enter assignments here for quick reference)

A. EAS Monitoring Assignment #1: _____
B. EAS Monitoring Assignment #2: _____
C. EAS Monitoring Assignment #3: _____
D. EAS Monitoring Assignment #4: _____

_____1. **All personnel are trained in EAS procedures and in the use of EAS Equipment.**

_____2. **EAS encoders and decoders are installed and operating.**

_____3. **Correct assignments are being monitored in accordance with this State EAS Plan.**

_____4. **Weekly and monthly EAS tests are received and logged.**

_____5. **Weekly and monthly EAS test transmissions are conducted and logged.**

_____6. **EAS Operating Handbook is immediately available at the control point.**

_____7. **A copy of the State of Vermont EAS Plan is available at the control point.**

_____8. **A posting of each operational area served by this broadcast station or cable TV system.**

_____9. **A Copy of the FCC EAS Rules and Regulations (Part 11)* and, if appropriate, AM station emergency operation (Section 73.1250) available at the control point.**

*Note: A copy of the FCC Part 11 is included as an appendix to this document.

DISTRIBUTION LIST	# of copies
State Agencies	
Governor's Office	1
Department of Public Safety	1
Vermont State Police HQ	2
Vermont Emergency Management	10
Vermont State Police Station and Troop Headquarters	1
Federal	
Federal Emergency management Agency, Region I	1
National Weather Service, Weather Forecast Office, Burlington, VT	2
National Weather Service, Weather Forecast Office, Albany, NY	1
Federal Communications Commission, Northeast District Office, Quincy, MA	1
Federal Communications Commission (FCC-EAS) Washington, DC	1
Municipal Governments	
Each Vermont Community	1
Each County and Fire District Dispatch Center	1
Private Organizations	
State Emergency Communications Committee Chairman	2
Vermont Association of Broadcasters (President & Executive Director)	2
Each Local Operating Area Emergency Communications Committee Chair & Vice Chair	2
New England Cable Television Association	1
All Vermont Broadcast Stations	1
Cable Television Providers	1

EMERGENCY BROADCAST SYSTEM (EBS) to
EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM (EAS)
HIERARCHY NETWORK CONVERSION

EBS DESIGNATIONS	EAS DESIGNATIONS
PEP (Primary Entry Point)	NP (National Primary)
OPRS (Originating Primary Relay Station)	SP (State Primary)
SNRS (State Network Relay Station)	SR (State Relay)
CPCS (Common Program Control Station)	LP (Local Primary)
PS (Primary Station)	PN (Participating National)
NS (Non-participating Station)	NN (Non-participating National)

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Emergency Alert System (EAS) Plan is to define the procedures for the broadcast and cable services and designated government officials of the State of Vermont to disseminate emergency information and instructions to the public in threatening or actual emergencies.

II. AUTHORITY

This plan is authorized by Title 47 U.S.C. 151, 154 (i) and (o), 303(r), 524 (g) and 606; and 47 CFR, Part 11, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Rules and Regulations, Emergency Alert System (EAS) as it pertains to day-to-day emergency operations.

III. INTRODUCTION:

This plan was prepared by the Vermont State Emergency Communications Committee (SECC) in cooperation with the Vermont Association of Broadcasters (VAB), Vermont Emergency Management (VEM), the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), The National Weather Service (NWS), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the New England Cable Television Association (NECTA). It provides procedural guidance and background data for the broadcast and cable television (CATV) media to disseminate emergency information and warning to the public in the State of Vermont, or any portion thereof within the station's broadcast coverage or CATV system service area(s) at the request of approved government officials.

Acceptance of, or participation in this plan, shall not be deemed to prohibit a broadcast licensee or cable operator from exercising independent discretion and responsibility in any given situation. The discretion of management of each broadcast station or cable system, regarding the transmission of emergency messages and instructions to the public, is provided by the 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(d).

Detailed procedures to permit designated government officials to issue national, state-wide, operational area and community-specific emergency messages and instructions via the state EAS, in threatened, actual or post emergencies are encompassed in this plan, as agreed upon by the broadcast and cable television operators and state and Federal signatories.

This plan recognizes that CATV licensing agreements contain provisions for municipal officials to access CATV systems for emergency public information dissemination. These licensing agreement articles are supplemental to the provisions of this plan. In the unlikely event of a conflict, this plan takes precedence.

IV. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

The listening and viewing habits of the public are inherent factors of consideration and conductive to the positive effectiveness of the Vermont Emergency Alert System, (VT-EAS) plan. The instinctive reaction of the average person is to turn on the radio or television set in time of emergency. Based upon the above, the following outlines the basic situation, physical characteristics and assumptions used in the development of this plan.

A. Situation

Broadcast radio and Television stations are mainly privately owned corporations using the public "air waves" and operating in the public interest. Likewise, cable television service providers, through local licensing agreements and licensing renewal considerations, also have an interest in serving the public. One aspect of this public interest is to allow its facilities to be used by responsible government officials to communicate with the public in time of impending or actual emergency. Such a system, as prescribed by the FCC, is the Emergency Alert System.

B. Physical Characteristics

The State of Vermont has over 50 radio and television stations and cable television franchise areas in the VT-EAS plan. For EAS planning purposes, the State of Vermont is subdivided into Five (5) regional operational areas. These VT-EAS operational areas differ from the former EBS operational areas in four ways:

1. The number of operational areas covering all of Vermont has been reduced to five.
2. VT-EAS operational areas are all intrastate.
3. Each operational area encompasses one or more counties to help easily identify operational boundaries.
4. County groupings are common-risk based.

It should be stated that one of the greatest natural disaster dangers throughout Vermont (at anytime of year) is that of flooding. Additional specific hazards for each operational area are cited below:

VT-EAS Area 1: Champlain Valley (Chittenden, Grand Isle, Franklin, Addison Counties

All of these areas border Lake Champlain and are generally open valley areas. This operational area has the largest population center in Vermont and shares common natural hazards such as high winds and springtime lakeshore flooding. Hazardous Material (HAZMAT) incidents are an ever-present danger in this busy transportation corridor - including potential problems on the state's most congested road system, railroad freight links to Canada and shipping on Lake Champlain.

VT-EAS Area 2: Central Vermont - (Lamoille, Washington, Orange Counties)

This area is home to the State Capital and other major state-government facilities, including the current Emergency Operations Center (EOC) of Vermont Emergency Management and Department of Public Safety. These counties are along and east of the spine of the Green Mountains and are prone to common hazards such as heavy snow, ice jams and flooding.

VT-EAS Area 3: Northern Vermont - (Orleans, Essex, Caledonia Counties)

This is a very rural area of the state. Transportation options within it are limited. Providing information to the public is also limited by lack of CATV penetration and poor coverage of NWS watches and warnings due to the lack of a local NOAA weather radio station. Because of winter storm conditions, especially icing conditions, high elevation areas on I-91 are subject to hazardous material (HAZMAT) incidents.

VT-EAS Area 4: Southern Vermont - (Rutland, Windsor, Bennington Counties)

Within the geographical boundaries of this operational area are several highways (State Routes 4, 7, 9 & 103, US routes I-89 & I-91) and a major rail transportation corridor. These attributes increase HAZMAT incident risks to the area. Each county in this area borders another state: Rutland with New York, Windsor with New Hampshire, Bennington with New York and Massachusetts. East and west travel is particularly difficult because of total reliance on two-way roads and crossing the high elevation of the Green Mountains. Rutland County is not well served by NOAA weather radio.

VT-EAS Area 5: Windham County

This southeastern Vermont area is prone to severe flooding and is home to the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant.

VT-EAS Special Zone: Windham County

This plan establishes (for radiological emergency response planning purposes) in cooperation with Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant and the Federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), a special Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ). EAS procedures dedicated to protecting the populace surrounding the nuclear power

facility are contained in Appendix 4.

FCC Rules require broadcast stations and CATV systems to monitor multiple EAS sources. At least one source for State Primary (SP) facility should be a National Primary (NP) facility.

(Note: The only NP's close to Vermont are WBZ-AM, Boston, MA, WABC-AM, New York City and WHAM, Rochester, New York. Day or nighttime monitoring of any of these stations is unreliable at our designated State Primary facility. The VTSECC is working with FEMA and the FCC to authorize VT-EAS SP to monitor another more reliable New England source - tentatively WHOM-FM, Portland, ME from atop Mt. Washington in New Hampshire.)

Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) in Waterbury is designated as the state primary (SP) and is the originator of required monthly tests. VEM has two EAS consoles to provide redundancy and a 24 hour watch. VEM has a direct broadcast line to WDEV in Waterbury and a program circuit hosted by the Vermont Department of Public Safety microwave system feeding eight broadcast lines connecting the SR and LP radio stations in each operational area.

The radio stations of the Vermont Public Radio Network, WVPS 107.9, WRVT 88.7, WVPR 89.5, WVPA 88.3 and WBTN-FM 94.3 along with WEZF 92.9 and WSYB-AM 1380 and WZRT-FM 97.1 are the designated State Relays (SR) for Vermont. The selection of these stations is based upon their large coverage areas and proximity of their transmitter facilities to the State microwave system. In the event of a statewide emergency, critical alerting and information dissemination can be expedited through use these regional signals.

The primary path to all other broadcast and CATV facilities shall be over-the-air transmission from either the SR or LP stations. In addition, the SR will host a subcarrier which will forward all emergency messages originating at VEM and at NOAA weather at the airport in Burlington. All broadcast and CATV stations in the northern 10 counties are to use WEZF, WVMT, WVPS or WVPA as one of their primary monitoring assignments. Stations in the southern four counties are to use WZRT, WRVT, WBTN-FM or WTSA-FM as their primary monitoring assignment.

If the SP and SR system fails, NOAA weather stations operated out of Burlington Vermont and Albany NY become the secondary backup. Recent changes in the broadcast industry have made utilization of LP stations for localized alert generation impractical as they are not manned 24 hours a day. Local Primary Stations still have the responsibility to automatically pass alerts aimed at their operational areas 24 hours a day. As such they are to monitor direct VEM circuits and NOAA NWR stations as backup.

The following stations are designated as LPs (LP-1 and LP-2):

VT-EAS Area 1	WVMT-AM 620, Colchester
VT-EAS Area 1 (alternate)	WOKO-FM 98.9, South Burlington
VT-EAS Area 2	WDEV-AM 550 & WDEV-FM 96.1 Waterbury
VT-EAS Area 2 (alternate)	WORK-FM 107.1, Barre
VT-EAS Area 3	WMOO-FM 92.1, Derby Line
VT-EAS Area 3 (alternate)	WNKV-FM 105.5 & WSTJ-AM 1340 St. Johnsbury
VT-EAS Area 4	WSYB-AM 1380 & WZRT-FM 97.1
VT-EAS Area 4 (alternate)	WRVT-FM 88.7 Rutland
VT-EAS Area 5	WTSA-FM 96.7 & WTSA-AM 1450
VT-EAS Area 5 (alternate)	WKVT-AM 1490 & WKVT-FM 92.7 Brattleboro

General recommendations: The FCC requires multiple source monitoring. This plan provides a simple methodology for monitoring three sources.

Source One: All broadcast and CATV stations in the northern 10 counties are required to monitor one of the State Relays WVPS, WEZF, WVMT or WVPA. Stations in the southern four counties are required to monitor WZRT, WRVT, WBTN-FM or WTSA-FM.

Source Two: In the event the SP is disabled, Vermont Emergency Management has agreements with NOAA weather offices in Burlington Vermont and Albany New York wherein they will broadcast WRSAME messages on their respective Vermont NWR transmitters atop Mt. Mansfield, Mt. Ascutney, Burke Mountain and Ames Hill. Consequently the second monitoring assignment for each station is the nearest NOAA NWR station. In the event that a broadcaster cannot receive a NOAA NWR station, their alternate assignment will be the alternate LP-2 station for their area.

Source Three: We hope to eventually have in place a statewide closed circuit relay feeding every EAS alert originated by VEM and the NOAA weather service office at Burlington International Airport to every broadcaster in Vermont. This will be fed via 92 kHz sub-carriers hosted by all of Vermont Public Radio's transmitters and possibly Vermont Public Television's SAP channels. Every broadcaster, including cable operators, will be given an SCA receiver tuned to the appropriate frequency. Each VPR transmitter site will have EAS encoders that will monitor a direct line from VEM (SP), and a direct line or off air pickup of NOAA NWS stations. If VEM cannot contact NOAA weather a command center will be established at Vermont Public Radio's broadcast center in Colchester VT. This facility has its own emergency power. VPR will then assume the roll of SP as well as SR. Broadcasters and municipalities might opt to acquire VCR's capable of receiving SAP channels if and when Vermont Public Television is added to the EAS relay system.

Each participating station will have the ability to monitor each of three sources. The only exception may be a few areas not currently served with NOAA weather radio. They will monitor a secondary LP-2 station instead.

Normal on air and subcarrier EAS transmissions are to be delivered by the SR. All broadcasters should plan to monitor both.

C. Assumptions

All licensed broadcast stations and cable Television systems are required by FCC Regulations to install and operate an EAS decoder capable of picking up the monitor assignments for their operational area and, unless exempted by Federal Regulation, install and operate an EAS encoder.

Broadcast stations and cable system management have considered and prepared personnel to prevent confusion and unnecessary EAS message rebroadcast delays. In essence, personnel are trained to take appropriate action without hesitation upon receipt of an EAS message.

EAS may be activated for any “short-fused” situation in which the safety of life and property requires those at risk to take immediate protective action.

Testing of the State’s EAS network will be done in accordance with FCC Part 11 criteria and the provisions of this plan. The monthly state wide EAS test will be held at the pre-established schedule set forth by VEM and approved by the SECC. This monthly test can be substituted for the local weekly test per FCC Regulation 11.61(2)(B)(iv).

V. THE GENERAL PLAN

A. National Level

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) have joint responsibility for the national level EAS. FEMA, the FCC, and the National Weather Service (NWS) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) with advice, through the FCC, from the National Advisory Committee (NAC), are jointly responsible for developing and evaluating EAS plans and related capabilities at the state and local levels of EAS operations.

This section is intended to provide background information on the national level EAS to assist with planning and implementation at the state and local level. In essence, the President requires a reliable means for communicating with the American public on short notice during periods of national crisis or major emergency to provide reassurance and direction regarding response and recovery. The President must be able to address the Nation on radio, TV and CATV within 10 minutes following an activation notice.

In addition, the President must be able to address the nation on live TV (audio & video), upon arrival at a designated TV studio. This capability must exist under a variety of conditions. Once activated, the national level EAS remains available for the dissemination of high priority national programming following activation. These capabilities must also be available to presidential successors. The authority to activate the national level EAS rests solely with the President of the United States.

B. State Level:

Activation of the Emergency Alert System within the State of Vermont may be made at request of the Governor, the Public Safety Commissioner, the director of the Vermont Emergency Management, the Vermont State Police, or the National Weather Service. Such request shall be made directly to the State Primary (VEM), the State Relay (VPR) or the Local Primary station(s) of the affected operational areas.

Participation in the Vermont EAS is voluntary and at the discretion of broadcast station management. Most Vermont stations have carried EBS (now called EAS) programming and tests. This is accomplished by, but not limited to, the methods cited below:

1) Reception from an FCC required monitoring assignment.
2) Reception via a direct broadcast line from VEM.
3) Reception via a telephone call or radio remote pickup unit (RPU).
4) Monitoring of a news source e.g. AP or UPI.
5) Monitoring NOAA Weather Radio.

C. Local Level

The State's Emergency Alert System is subdivided into counties. Emergencies such as a hazardous materials incident, flooding or a large structural fire may only affect a single community. Local authorities may request EAS activation through the LP or the broadcast station/CATV system serving that area or through Vermont Emergency Management, which will have origination facilities manned 24 hours a day.

Participation in local-level EAS is voluntary and at the discretion of the broadcaster/CATV service provider. Many Vermont communities have EAS access privileges incorporated into CATV licensing agreements. Those with such licensing provisions should review their licensing agreements to ensure compliance with this EAS Plan.

VI. IMPLEMENTATION

The Vermont EAS is activated by request from authorized officials (briefly referenced above and identified in more detail in Attachment J) to the State Primary, alternate State Primary or appropriate Local Primary broadcast facility when necessary for the protection of life and property. Designated officials as identified in Attachment J are the only individuals authorized to request a statewide, multi-operational area or a single operational area activation of the Vermont EAS.

See Attachment G, for a summary of State Level emergency alert system origination and event codes that have been adopted for utilization by the KEY EAS source, the National Weather Service, Vermont State Police and Vermont Emergency Management.

The National Weather Service Forecast office at Burlington, Vermont will generally issue such EAS messages for the state, with the exception of Bennington and Windham Counties, which are served by the Albany NY National Weather Service Forecast Office. Requests for EAS messages can also be accomplished via the State Police and State Emergency Management both located in Waterbury, Vermont.

For unique local emergency situations, not extending beyond the geographical boundaries of a single community, local authorities may request EAS activation via the local broadcast station or CATV service provider. The assistance of local broadcast stations and CATV service providers without involving the State EAS is encouraged. It is suggested that arrangements be made through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between station management and local government officials and incorporated into local CATV Licensing Agreements between CATV service providers and local government officials for such operations. If local broadcasters are not accessible due to lack of trained personnel or lack of manpower, Vermont Emergency Management can originate a countywide alert for your locality.

Although local government officials have the right to request EAS activation for multi-community disasters and emergency situations, it is recommended such requests be channeled to the Vermont Emergency Management Agency or the State Police who can aid in coordination of protective action measures among all affected jurisdictions.

A. Procedures for Requesting EAS Activation by Authorized Officials

It is recommended, whenever, government officials believe an EAS activation is a strong possibility, they should provide the broadcast station with a "heads-up" advisory. This can be accomplished best by telephone.

To avoid unnecessary escalation of public confusion, all Emergency Alert System requesters 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.

1. Request activation of EAS via the State Primary VEM in Waterbury. The contact method and identification procedure will be provided to authorized requesters via separate correspondence. If unable to contact the state primary, a call should be placed to Vermont State Police.

2. Work out the broadcast details including live or recorded, immediate or delayed broadcast, effective period etc. with the broadcast station personnel.

It is recommended that authorized officials use the following format when delivering the emergency announcement. The format is deliberately general in nature to allow flexibility for adaptation to any emergency situation. Because of technical limitations of encoding/decoding EAS equipment, it is advisable EAS messages do not exceed a minute and a half in length.

a. “This is ___(name/title)_____ of___(organization)_ with a request to activate the Vermont Emergency Alert System. I authenticate as follows:

b. _____(State Authenticator Code)

When the broadcaster or VEM duty operator is ready to copy the message, Read the warning message which should be brief. Maximum voice message length is 2 minutes. And be prepared to indicate the **time period** the message is valid for in **15 minute increments**, up to one hour, and in thirty minute increments beyond one hour.

c. Include in the message: the situation summary, briefly describe the problem, affected area(s) and if appropriate the duration); Actions (who's affected and what action they should take); Source (Government entity providing the guidance); Further instructions (e.g. Stay tuned or turn to (TV/CATV channel or radio frequency for detailed or updated information).

If it is not practical to convey all information in under two minutes, the announcement should say when a press conference is being scheduled to explain response and protective actions, this should be articulated in the text, including where and when residents can tune for emergency information, including actions being taken by state and/or local government(s).

Note: Mention frequencies or channel assignments, avoid call letters. It is understood that more than one EAS message may be necessary, during large scale disasters or that an EAS message may be necessary to draw attention to more lengthy, public information briefings which may be carried on radio and TV stations.

Keep the phone line open to determine that the SP or LP has all the information it needs to distribute the EAS warning, prior to hanging up.

The SP or LP station will end the message, regardless of its length, with the EAS termination code (NNNN) which ends the activation.

The preceding procedures are for statewide activations. For a localized emergency, contact the appropriate LP(s) or local broadcast facility and/or CATV service provider for the affected community, and use the same format. The contact telephone numbers for the EAS Local Primary facilities will be provided to selected plan receptors under separate cover. Space is provided here for "pen-and-ink" listing:

Operational Area	Call Sign	Telephone Number

B. General Procedures For Use By Broadcast Stations and Cable Systems

Procedures for the LP, EAS broadcast stations and cable systems during attended operations.

1. Upon receipt of a request to activate EAS, the duty operator at a receiving broadcast station will authenticate the message, (authentication procedures and codes will be provided to selected broadcast facilities under separate cover); determine if the message needs statewide distribution; enter all header codes in the EAS encoder; record the emergency message, enter the termination code and proceed as follows:

   a. Air the following announcement:

      "WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM TO ACTIVATE THE STATE OF VERMONT EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM AT THE REQUEST OF: _____ AT _____."
      (authority) (time

   b. Transmit the Emergency Alert System header codes and the two-tone Attention Signal: (FCC Regulations, Section 11.51)

   c. Play the emergency announcement recording from activating (requesting) official. Be certain to include the source of information in header code, time frame of emergency condition, the area to be notified.

   d. The next step is to enter the EAS End of Message EOM) code (see regulations, Section 11.31). FCC type accepted EAS equipment will automatically send the End of Message (NNNN) code at 2 minutes after activation. So, longer announcements and press conferences should be accomplished outside EAS. Operators should make every effort to reduce EAS activation time to the minimum necessary to complete the task by entering the End of Message code, as soon as practical, to prevent dead air between end of message and system "time out".

2. Each broadcast station and cable system, upon receipt of a State level Emergency Alert System message, when manned, will, at the discretion of management, perform the same procedures as outlined in B.1. above, including recording all emergency voice messages. Unattended facilities will receive such messages on the EAS decoder and the circuitry will permit such messages to automatically interrupt programming and be carried over the main program channel(s) intact. TV Stations will also generate a video crawl that will appear in the upper two thirds of the screen explaining the interruption.

3. CATV operators shall fulfill the video portion of an EAS activation by transmitting a visual interruption on all channels of their system and place a video crawl of the EAS message in the upper two thirds of the screen on at least one channel. A CATV operator may elect not to interrupt EAS messages from a broadcast TV station if there is a written agreement between them.

4. 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.

5. 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 for two years 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 of EAS usage to the FCC, for informational purposes. The address is FCC EAS office, 1919 "M" St., Room 736, Washington, DC 02554 telephone: 202-418-1220.

6. If operations were not concluded as specified in B.1.d. above, (this should not be necessary under EAS), upon receipt of the termination notice from the activating official, make the following announcement and then transmit the EOM code:

> "THIS CONCLUDES OPERATIONS UNDER THE VERMONT EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM. ALL BROADCAST STATIONS AND CABLE SYSTEMS WILL NOW RESUME NORMAL OPERATIONS." NNNN.

VII. TESTS

Statewide monthly tests (RMT) of the Vermont Alert System will be conducted on a partially randomized but published schedule to insure that the system is operational at all times.

The National Weather Service, state relays, local primary stations and all other EAS participants will conduct weekly tests. Broadcasters can omit an RWT during a week in which an actual alert or RMT was sent.

All tests will be done in accordance to testing criteria cited in 47 CFR, Part 11, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Rules and Regulations and the provisions of this plan.