



APPENDIX 1 TO EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION #2

ALERT AND WARNING

PRIMARY AGENCIES:

State: Division of Emergency Management
Department of Public Safety

Federal: National Weather Service

SUPPORT AGENCIES:

State: Department of Water Resources

I. PURPOSE

- A. Provide procedures to receive alerting and warning information of impending threats that could endanger the population of the state.
- B. Provide warning information and instructions of impending danger.
- C. Alert disaster response organizations.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

State government must be prepared to receive, evaluate and react to alert and warnings. The state must notify governmental officials and response organizations, and issue information and instructions to the public of an impending disaster situation.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. Alerting Phase

- 1. The **Department of Public Safety (DPS)** is designated as the 24-hour State Warning Point for disasters and will receive and relay alerting information through the National Warning System (NAWAS).
- 2. Upon receipt of information, the DPS Duty Officer will:
 - a. Notify the appropriate county Warning Points which will execute local alert and warning procedures.
 - b. Notify ADEM which will alert the primary state agencies and contact the affected local governments to confirm their receipt of notification and establish coordination and feedback channels.

- c. Assist ADEM and, when appropriate, the National Weather Service (NWS) by providing feedback information about what is occurring in the affected areas.

B. Warning Phase

1. NWS offices issue weather statements, Advisories, Watches and Warnings, and short-term forecasts (NOWcasts), for significant/severe weather events and flooding. They are transmitted via the National Weather Wire Service (NWS) and NAWAS to state and county Warning Points. Information on the NWS is also received by other subscribers throughout the state, for dissemination to the public. The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio (NWR) is used to disseminate data about events within the listening area (about a 40-mile line-of-sight radius) by transmitters in Phoenix, Flagstaff, Yuma, Tucson and Las Vegas. NWS offices also use the Media Alert System for short-fused, severe weather events affecting, or expected to affect, populated areas.
2. NWS Offices may make additional notifications as to Statements, Advisories, Watches, Warnings and NOWcasts. Feedback information is provided by local jurisdictions and county emergency management directors to the NWS so accurate predictions and appropriate upgrading of Watches or Warnings can be timely. The feedback loop consists of ADEM, DPS, NWS and local government.

IV. ORGANIZATIONAL ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. State Government

1. **ADEM** is responsible for:
 - a. Acting as the primary state agency for establishing, improving and maintaining the state warning system;
 - b. Alerting the appropriate state agencies; and
 - c. Establishing feedback channels with local government, DPS and the NWS to ensure situation monitoring.
2. **DPS** is responsible for functioning as the State Warning Point, for receiving alerting and warning information and for relaying such information to ADEM and local governments.
3. Primary state response agencies are responsible for alerting support agencies and personnel.
4. Any state agency that recognizes an impending danger is responsible for initiating the alert to the State Warning Point.

B. County Government will:

1. Establish county Warning Points;
2. Disseminate Alert and Warning information; and
3. Pass reports of significant/severe weather or flooding to the NWS office which has warning responsibility for their county.

C. Federal Government

1. **NWS** offices in Phoenix, Tucson, Flagstaff and Las Vegas are responsible for preparing and issuing Statements, Advisories, Watches, Warnings and NOWcasts about any severe weather or flooding in Arizona. Each office is responsible for a County Warning Area (CWA). CWAs in Arizona, are as follows:
 - a. Weather Forecast Office (WFO) Phoenix, AZ - which covers Maricopa, Yuma, La Paz, southern Gila and northwest Pinal Counties.
 - b. WFO Tucson, AZ - which covers Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, Pima, southeast Pinal and Santa Cruz Counties.
 - c. WFO Flagstaff, AZ - which covers Apache, Coconino, Northern Gila, Navajo and Yavapai Counties.
 - d. WFO Las Vegas, NV - which covers Mohave County.
2. FEMA is responsible for activation of the NAWAS to alert states of the potential for or an actual attack upon the United States or its territories.

V. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

A. ADEM will:

1. Maintain this ESF Appendix.
2. Approve county Warning Points and Warning Point extensions for NAWAS utilization.
3. Assist Warning Point facilities in maintaining the NAWAS communication system.
4. Develop and maintain Internal Operating Procedure (IOPs) for alerting of appropriate state agencies and establishing feedback channels.
5. Assist state and local agencies in preparing IOPs for alerting and warning systems implementation.

6. Maintain coordination with federal agencies to improve plans, procedures and systems for providing alert and warning information.
- B. Primary agencies will:**
1. Identify a point of contact and an alternate for receiving an alert from ADEM.
 2. Develop and maintain an IOP which will include an alerting system for the primary agency and for support agencies and personnel.
- C. DPS** will provide training in procedures for alerting ADEM, and affected local governments, and providing feedback information to ADEM or the NWS in weather related situations.
- D. Department of Water Resources (DWR)** will provide stream gauge and precipitation data to the SEOC.