

ANNEX A

WARNING

Burnet County
(Jurisdiction)

APPROVAL & IMPLEMENTATION

Annex A WARNING

James Oakley

County Judge

06/01/2022

Date

Jimmy L. Barho

Emergency Management Coordinator

06/01/2022

Date

RECORD OF CHANGES

Annex A

WARNING

Change #	Date of Change	Entered By	Date Entered

ANNEX A

WARNING

I. AUTHORITY

- A. Refer to Section I of the Basic Plan for general authorities.
- B. Texas State Emergency Communications Committee, *Texas Emergency Alert System Plan*.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this annex is to outline the organization, operational concepts, responsibilities, and procedures to disseminate timely and accurate warnings and information to the public and government officials in the event of an impending emergency situation.

III. EXPLANATION OF TERMS

A. Acronyms

BSOC	Border Security Operation Center
CIS	Criminal Intelligence Service
DEM	Division of Emergency Management
EAS	Emergency Alert System
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
EMC	Emergency Management Coordinator
FAOC	FEMA Alternate Operations Center
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FNARS	FEMA National Radio System
FOC	FEMA Operations Center
GDEM	Governor's Division of Emergency Management
HSIN-CI	Homeland Security Information network-critical Infrastructure
HSOC	Homeland Security Operations Center
IC	Incident Commander
ICS	Incident Command System
JIC	Joint Information Center
JIS	Joint Information System
LWP	Local Warning Point
NAWAS	National Warning System
NIMS	National Incident management System
NOAA	National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
NRP	National Response Plan

NWS	National Weather Service
PIO	Public Information Office or Officer
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
TLETS	Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunications System
TEWAS	Texas Warning System

B. Definitions

1. Area Warning Center. Area Warning Centers disseminate national and state warning messages to a multi-county area of responsibility. The State's 36 Area Warning Centers are operated on a round-the-clock basis by the Department of Public Safety. Each center is equipped with a variety of primary and alternate telecommunications systems.
2. Texas Fusion Center (TFC). The TFC is composed of three entities co-located in the DPS Headquarters building. These entities include the State Operations Center (SOC), the Border Security Operations Center (BSOC), and the Intelligence Center. The SOC and BSOC monitor and coordinate, as necessary, state emergency and border activities. The Intelligence Center, under the Criminal Intelligence Service (CIS) of the Department of Public Safety (DPS), functions on a 24-hour basis to receive and respond to reports from the public and local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. CIS commissioned officers and analysts from the CIS and federal agencies staff the Intelligence Center. When warranted, the Intelligence Center disseminates actionable intelligence and investigative leads to CIS District Command staff and/or Regional Joint Terrorism Task Forces and/or local law enforcement. The Intelligence Center also remains in communication with the DHS through several communications networks. The Director, Texas Office of Homeland Security, is apprised of any activity or threats potentially impacting the State of Texas.
3. TLETS. TLETS is a statewide telecommunications network connecting state and local law enforcement agencies and warning facilities. TLETS is the state warning network's primary "hard copy" communications system.

IV. SITUATION & ASSUMPTIONS
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A. Situation

1. See the general situation statement and hazard summary in Section IV.A of the Basic Plan.
2. Burnet County can expect to experience emergency situations that could threaten public health and safety and both private and public property and necessitate the implementation of protective actions for the public at risk.

3. Emergency situations can occur at any time. Equipment and procedures to warn the public and provide information about impending emergency situations must be in place and ready to use at any time.
4. Power outages may disrupt radio and television systems that carry warning messages and provide public instructions.

B. Assumptions

1. Timely warnings and information provided to the public may save lives, decrease injuries, and reduce some types of property damage.
2. Electronic news media are the primary sources of emergency information for the general public.
3. Some people who are directly threatened by a hazard may ignore, not hear, or not understand warnings issued by the government.
4. Provision must be made to provide warnings and information to special needs groups, such as the hearing and sight-impaired, and institutions, such as nursing homes and correctional facilities.
5. Local radio and television stations will broadcast Emergency Alert System (EAS) messages when requested by local government officials. To effectively utilize EAS, local governments and broadcasters must coordinate the procedures used to transmit warning message and instructions from local government to broadcasters.
6. The local National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio station will broadcast weather watches and warnings issued by the National Weather Service (NWS). Weather radios are activated when such messages are broadcast.

V. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. General

1. The primary objective of a warning system is to notify key officials of emergency situations and disseminate timely and accurate warnings and instructions to the population at risk from the threat or occurrence of emergency situation. Rapid dissemination and delivery of warning information and instructions may provide time for citizens to take action to protect themselves and their property.
2. The focal point of the warning function is the Local Warning Point (LWP), which operates around the clock. The County LWP is located in the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office operates the LWP.
 - a. The LWP receives warning of actual or potential emergency situations from a variety of sources. These include federal and state agencies, local officials, businesses, industry, the news media, and the general public. Warnings are received by the LWP as described below and depicted in Appendix 1.

- b. The LWP will verify warning information, where necessary, and disseminate pertinent information to specific local officials and departments.
 - 1) For certain types of time-sensitive warnings, the LWP may be authorized to activate the local warning system and warn the public immediately. In other situations, local officials must approve activation of the warning system. Appropriate instructions to accompany the warning are determined before a warning is disseminated to the public.
 - 2) For some types of emergency situations, the EOC may be activated. The EOC then assumes responsibility for developing warning messages and public instructions. These may be disseminated through LWP or provided to the media.
- c. The LWP disseminates warnings that affect the local area once they are received and, where necessary, verified. The LWP will provide appropriate public information and instructions with the warnings. The systems used to disseminate warnings and provide information to the public are described below and depicted in Appendix 1.

B. Receiving Warnings

Burnet County may receive warning of actual emergency situations or the threat of such situations from the following:

1. National and State Warning Systems

- a. The National Warning System (NAWAS) is a 24-hour nationwide, dedicated, multiple line telephone warning system linking federal agencies and the states. It is used to disseminate civil emergency warnings and alerts. NAWAS is a voice communications system controlled and operated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), NAWAS is used to disseminate three types of civil emergency warnings to state and local governments:
 - 1) Attack Warnings
 - 2) Fallout Warnings
 - 3) Natural and Technological Emergency Warnings

Warnings from the FOC or FAOC are coordinated with the Homeland Security Operations Center (HSOC) and relayed through the FEMA Regional Communications Center in Denton to the State Warning Point at the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Austin. The State Warning Point further disseminates the civil emergency warnings through the Texas Warning System (TEWAS). The FEMA National Radio System (FNARS), a network of HF radios, serves as a backup for NAWAS.

- b. The Texas Warning System (TEWAS) is state level extension of NAWAS. It consists of a dedicated telephone warning system linking the State Warning Point with 36 Area Warning Centers and with seven National Weather Service (NWS) offices in Texas.

- 1) The State Warning Point relays national emergency warnings received on NAWAS to Area Warning Centers using TEWAS. Area Warning Centers will normally disseminate warnings they receive to LWPs via teletype messages on the Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (TLETS). Warnings may be sent by telephone or radio to those LWPs that cannot be reached by TLETS.
 - 2) TEWAS may also be used by the State EOC to disseminate warning messages from the Governor or other key state officials to specific regions of the state.
- c. HSIN-CI. Homeland Security Information Network – Critical Infrastructure is an unclassified network which immediately provides the Homeland Security Operations Center (HSOC) with one-stop 24/7 access to a broad spectrum of industries, agencies and critical infrastructure across both the public and private sectors. HSIN-CI delivers information sharing, alert notification services to the right people – those that need to know and those that need to act.
 - d. Texas Amber Alert Network. A coordinated emergency alert program that disseminates information about abducted children. It serves as an early special purpose warning system available for use by law enforcement to alert the public when a child has been kidnapped and the police believe the child is in danger. See the Statewide Texas Amber Alert Network Plan for more information.
 - e. Specific formats and handling instructions have been established for certain national civil emergency messages that would be disseminated by NAWAS and TEWAS. Appendix 4 provides guidance on handling national warning messages.
 - f. As NAWAS and TEWAS are “voice only” systems that are not particularly suited for disseminating lengthy messages. These systems are not generally used for alert and warning on a daily basis.

2. National Weather Service (NWS) Weather Products

Weather warning messages are issued by NWS Weather Forecast Offices and various NWS specialized weather centers, such as NWS river forecast centers, the National Severe Storms Forecast Center, and the National Hurricane Center.

- a. NWS broadcasts weather forecasts, watches, and warnings via the NOAA Weather Wire Service, which is a satellite communications system that broadcasts to specialized receiver terminals. In Texas, NWS weather products, such as watches and warnings, are transmitted by Weather Wire to the State EOC. The State EOC retransmits these weather messages to appropriate Area Warning Centers and Local Warning Points by TLETS. The weather messages that are provided include:
 - 1) Flood and flash flood watches and warnings
 - 2) Severe weather watches and warnings
 - 3) Tornado watches and warnings
 - 4) Tropical weather watches and warnings

Many local radio and television stations subscribe to the NOAA Weather Wire Service and have installed terminals to receive weather products directly from the NWS.

3. Emergency Alert System (EAS)

EAS is intended to provide a means for government to provide emergency warning and instructions to the public. See Section V.B.1 below for further information on EAS. Burnet County may receive EAS messages from:

- a. Federal authorities or agencies
- b. State government
- c. Other local governments

Civil emergency warnings issued through NAWAS may also be disseminated through EAS. Incoming EAS messages may be received on commercial radio or television stations monitored by local officials.

4. State Government. From time to time, the State EOC issues warning messages to local governments in specific regions of the State. For example, a hurricane may cause large-scale evacuations in coastal areas, generating an advisory to inland jurisdictions along major evacuation routes. Warnings issued by the State EOC are typically transmitted by TLETS to Area Warning Centers and LWPs.
5. Local Officials. Government employees may provide warning of emergency situations they have discovered or that have been reported to their departments and been confirmed. Such situations should be reported to the LWP through any available means of communications.
6. Business and Industry. Companies that suffer a major fire, explosion, hazardous materials spill, or other emergency situation that may pose a public risk or threaten property have an obligation to notify local officials of such occurrences. Notifications are generally made through the 9-1-1 system. Companies reporting emergency situations that may pose a risk to the public are expected to recommend to local government appropriate actions to protect people and property.
7. Federal, State, or Local Agencies. Warning of specific types of emergency situations may be received directly from specialized government agencies, including river authorities, dam operators, the US Coast Guard, military installations, airport authorities, and other agencies which operate specialized facilities.
8. Citizen Warning. Citizens may provide warning of emergency situations, generally by calling 9-1-1. It is advisable to confirm information on emergency situations reported by citizens before issuing public warning regarding those situations.

C. Notification of Local Officials

As the LWP, when the Sheriff's Office receives warning of an emergency situation, it will notify key local officials so they can determine appropriate actions to deal with the situation. The Emergency Notification Matrix provided in Appendix 2 indicates the departments and

officials that should be notified of various types of emergency situations. Notification will be made by telephone, radio, pager, or any other means available.

D. Dissemination of Warnings to the Public

1. Initially, the LWP will determine if a warning needs to be issued, formulate a warning (using pre-scripted messages where possible), and disseminate it. Appendix 3 provides general guidelines for activation of the local warning system. When the EOC has been activated, they will determine who needs to be warned and how the warning will occur. The EOC will formulate warning messages and public instructions. The LWP will execute such warnings by activating the warning system. The PIO or the EOC may disseminate emergency public information to the media directly.
2. The systems described below will be used to issue warnings and instructions to the public. To facilitate dissemination of warning and public instructions, a set of pre-scripted warning messages and public information messages has been developed. They are included in Appendix 6 to this annex. These pre-scripted messages may be used as written or tailored to fit specific circumstances.
 - a. The outdoor warning system. Burnet County has no outdoor warning system at this time.
 - b. EAS
 - 1) All licensed commercial radio and television stations and cable television companies must participate in EAS and use their facilities to relay warnings and instructions from government to the public. Broadcasters and cable companies must carry national security warnings and messages initiated by the President; they may broadcast alerts and messages initiated by state and local governments. The Federal Communications Commission encourages licensees to broadcast state and local warning and instruction messages, but the final decision rests with the broadcaster.
 - 2) For obvious reasons, EAS should be used prudently. Activation of EAS by local governments is governed by the *Texas EAS Plan* and local EAS plans developed in each of the state's 25 EAS districts. The general guidelines for local activation of EAS include:
 - a) Severity of situation. EAS warning will aid in reducing loss of life or substantial loss of property.
 - b) Timeliness. Immediate public knowledge is required to avoid adverse impact.
 - c) Alternatives. Other means of disseminating information are inadequate to ensure rapid delivery.
 - 3) The local EAS stations are listed in Appendix 5. Burnet County has coordinated with these stations to establish procedures for accessing the EAS, which are included in that appendix. Authority to release EAS messages for broadcast is restricted to those local officials named in Appendix 3. The following methods will be used to transmit emergency messages to EAS stations for broadcast:

- a) By telephone, with the station generally recording our verbal message and then broadcasting it.
- b) By fax, with the station receiving our written message and reading it on the air.

4) Pre-scripted emergency messages have been prepared for use with those warning systems that are capable of delivering a verbal or written message; these are included in Appendix 6. As EAS messages are limited to two minutes, the pre-scripted messages include short warning and instructional messages that may be transmitted by EAS. Amplifying messages will be distributed to the media as Special News Advisories.

c. Route Alerting & Door- to-Door Warning

The public may be warned by route alerting using vehicles equipped with sirens and public address systems. Route alerting may not work well in some areas, including rural areas where residences are some distance from the road or for large buildings with few external windows. Warnings may also be delivered by response personnel going door-to-door. Both of these methods are effective in delivering warning, but they are labor-intensive and time-consuming and may not be feasible for large areas. The following departments maintain vehicles equipped for route alerting: Sheriff's Office, County VFDs and LCRA.

d. NOAA Weather Radio.

Pursuant to an agreement with the NWS Forecast Office in San Marcos those local officials authorized to release EAS messages (See Appendix 3) may request that the NWS activate the NOAA Weather Radio system to broadcast civil emergency messages. This system can broadcast voice messages to individuals who have a NOAA Weather Radio [or receive Weather Radio broadcasts on cable television].

e. Industry Warning Systems.

Check with local industry (if there is any) to see what their internal warning system is and how they intend to notify personnel away from the facility.

E. Warning Special Facilities and Populations

Special populations and facilities will be warned of emergency situations by the following methods to include:

1. Visually-impaired: EAS messages on radio, sirens, NOAA Weather Radio, route alerting, door-to-door notification, other
2. Hearing-impaired: Captioned EAS messages on television, route alerting, door-to-door notification, other
3. Special facilities: EAS messages on radio/television, sirens, NOAA Weather Radio, route alerting, door-to-door notification, other

F. Warnings to Other Governments and Agencies

1. The Local Warning Point is responsible for warning adjacent or nearby jurisdictions that may be affected by emergency situations originating within Burnet County.
2. Local government is also responsible for informing the Disaster District in Austin at 9000 IH 35, of major emergencies after time-sensitive warnings have been issued. The format for an initial emergency report is provided in Appendix 2 to Annex N, Direction & Control.

G. Actions by Phases of Emergency Management

1. Prevention
 - a. Establish an effective public warning system and appropriate operating procedures. Extend the system to keep up with growth. Adopt new methods of warning that increase the ability to reach citizens not well served by current systems.
 - b. Conduct public education designed to prevent citizens from taking unnecessary risks during emergency situations. An example would be a public information effort discouraging people from driving on flooded roads.
2. Preparedness
 - a. Test the local warning system on a regular basis.
 - b. Prepare pre-scripted warning and public instruction messages for known hazards. See Appendix 6.
 - c. Brief local media on local warning systems and coordinate procedures for transmitting EAS messages to radio and television stations and cable television providers.
 - d. Conduct public education on warning systems and the actions that should be taken for various types of warnings.
 - e. Maintain this annex.
 - f. Establish a Joint Information System (JIS) and Identify suitable facilities for a Joint Information Center.
3. Response:
 - a. Activate local warning system to alert the public of the emergency situation and provide appropriate instructions.
 - b. Conduct media monitoring to determine the need to clarify issues and distribute updated public instructions
 - c. Discontinue warnings when they are no longer required.

4. Recovery
 - a. Advise the public when the emergency situation has been terminated.
 - b. If necessary, provide instructions for return of evacuees and safety information relating to reoccupation of damaged homes and businesses.

VI. ORGANIZATION & ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES
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A. General

1. The County Judge and Commissioner's Court shall establish general policies for emergency warning and fund personnel and equipment to operate the warning system.
2. The Sheriff is responsible for operating the LWP and coordinating operation of the local warning system.

B. Task Assignments

1. The County Judge will:
 - a. Outline general policies on warning and emergency public information.
 - b. Approve emergency public information to be released to the public through the news media or other means.
2. The Sheriff will:
 - a. Develop an adequate warning system.
 - b. Staff and operate the local warning point.
 - c. In coordination with the EMC, develop and maintain procedures for operation of the warning system, coordinating as necessary with other departments and agencies, the NWS, local radio and television stations, cable television companies, and other organizations. See Appendices 3, 4, and 5
 - d. Provide for maintenance and periodic testing warning system equipment. See Appendix 3.
3. The County Sheriff's Office will serve as the LWP and will:
 - a. Receive, verify and acknowledge warnings of emergency situations.
 - b. Make notification to local officials of emergency situations or conditions that could cause such situations as required. See Appendix 2.
 - c. In accordance with SOP or when directed, activate the warning system to alert and provide instructions to the public.

- d. Identify requirements for route alerting and door-to-door warning for areas where other warning systems do not adequately reach the public.
 - e. Develop and maintain hazard specific warning procedures covering warning receipt, verification, and dissemination.
4. The EMC will:
- a. Coordinate with the Sheriff to develop operating procedures for the warning system, and as necessary with other departments and agencies, the NWS, local radio and television stations, cable television companies, and other organizations.
 - b. Assist in the development of pre-scripted warning messages and Special News Advisories. See Appendix 6.
 - c. When the EOC is activated, assist in the development of warning messages and Special News Advisories.
 - d. In coordination with the PIO, educate the public regarding the use of the warning system.
5. The PIO will:
- a. In coordination with the EMC and the Sheriff, develop pre-scripted warning messages and public instructions for known hazards.
 - b. When an emergency has occurred, develop warning messages and public instructions for the specific situation at hand.
 - c. Develop procedures to facilitate the release of coordinated emergency public information to amplify basic information provided in warning messages.
 - d. Maintain a media briefing area in the vicinity of the EOC.
 - e. Periodically brief the media on local warning systems and warning procedures.
 - f. Develop and disseminate educational materials relating to emergency warning to the public.
6. Law Enforcement will:
- Provide units and personnel for route alerting and door-to-door warning when requested.
7. The Fire Service will:
- Provide units and personnel for route alerting and door-to-door warning when requested.
8. All local government departments and agencies will:

- a. Report emergency situations that merit warning local officials or the public to the local warning point.
 - b. When requested, provide personnel and equipment to assist in route alerting or door-to-door warning
9. Media companies are expected to:
- a. Disseminate warning messages and Special News Advisories provided by local government to the public as rapidly as possible.
 - b. Participate in periodic tests of the EAS and other warning systems.
10. Institutions, businesses, and places of public assembly are expected to:
- Monitor radio and television and/or NOAA Weather Radio receivers for warnings and take appropriate actions to protect their patients, students, customers, and employees.

VII. DIRECTION & CONTROL

A. General

- 1. The County Judge shall provide general guidance for warning activities.
- 2. The Sheriff shall provide specific guidance for the operation of the LWP and warning systems.
- 3. For specific time-sensitive emergency situations, the LWP has been delegated authority to determine if a warning needs to be issued, formulate a warning if necessary (using pre-scripted messages where possible), and disseminate it. For other situations, the LWP must coordinate with one of a designated set of key officials who will determine if a warning should be issued and approve the general content of any warning message that will be disseminated. Guidelines for this process are outlined in Appendix 3.
- 4. When the EOC has been activated, the EOC staff will determine who needs to be warned and how. The EMC, PIO, and other members of the staff will formulate warning messages and public instructions. The LWP will execute such warnings by activating the warning system. The PIO may disseminate emergency public information to the media directly.

B. Line of Succession

The line of succession for the Sheriff, who has primary responsibility for the warning function, is:

- 1. Chief Deputy
- 2. Captain
- 3. Captain

VIII. READINESS LEVELS

A. Readiness Level 4 - Normal Conditions

See the prevention and preparedness activities in Section V.G, Emergency Management Activities by Phase.

B. Readiness Level 3 - Increased Readiness

1. Monitor the situation.
2. Inspect warning systems to insure they are fully operational.
3. Alert EAS stations of the increased threat so they are aware of the situation and can disseminate warnings if necessary.

C. Readiness Level 2 - High Readiness

1. Monitor the situation.
2. Develop draft warning messages and public messages for the impending threat.
3. Alert personnel for possible emergency operations; identify personnel for increased staffing during primary vulnerability period.
4. Identify requirements for route alerting and door-to-door warning.
5. Consider activation of the EOC to provide for increased situation monitoring and to conduct pre-planning.

D. Readiness Level 1 - Maximum Readiness

1. Monitor the situation.
2. Place selected off-duty personnel on standby to increase staffing if necessary
3. Coordinate with EAS stations to determine their readiness.
4. Designate units for route alerting and door-to-door warning.
5. Activate the EOC for increased situation monitoring, planning, and resource management.

IX. ADMINISTRATION & SUPPORT

A. Agreements & Contracts

Should local resources prove to be inadequate during an emergency; requests will be made for assistance from other local jurisdictions, other agencies, and industry in accordance with existing mutual-aid agreements and contracts.

B. Reports & Records

1. The Local Warning Point shall maintain activity logs recording:
 - a. Warnings received.
 - b. Key personnel notified and the actions they directed to be taken.
 - c. Warnings disseminated to the public and the means of that dissemination.
2. The Incident Command Post (ICP) and the EOC shall maintain logs of their activities as outlined in Section IX of the Basic Plan.

C. Maintenance of Equipment

All warning systems owned by County will be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions for those systems.

X. ANNEX DEVELOPMENT & MAINTENANCE

A. Development

The County Sheriff is responsible for working with other agencies in the development, maintenance, and improvement of this annex. Each agency tasked will develop standard operating procedures that address assigned tasks.

B. Maintenance

This annex will be reviewed annually and updated in accordance with the schedule outlined in Section X of the Basic Plan.

XI. REFERENCES

FEMA, *National Warning System Operations Manual*.

FEMA, *Guide for All-Hazard Emergency Operations Planning (SLG-101)*.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Warning System Diagram
Appendix 2 Emergency Notification Matrix
Appendix 3 General Warning Point Procedures
Appendix 4 National Warning Messages
Appendix 5 Emergency Alert System Procedures

Appendix 6.....Warning and Emergency Public Information Messages

 Tab A..... Warning Message-General Incident

 Tab B.....Warning Message-Road and Facility Closure

 Tab D Special News Advisory-Pre-Evacuation Information

 Tab C Warning Message- Shelter-in-Place

 Tab E.....Warning Message-Urgent Evacuation

 Tab F.....Warning Message-Mandatory Evacuation

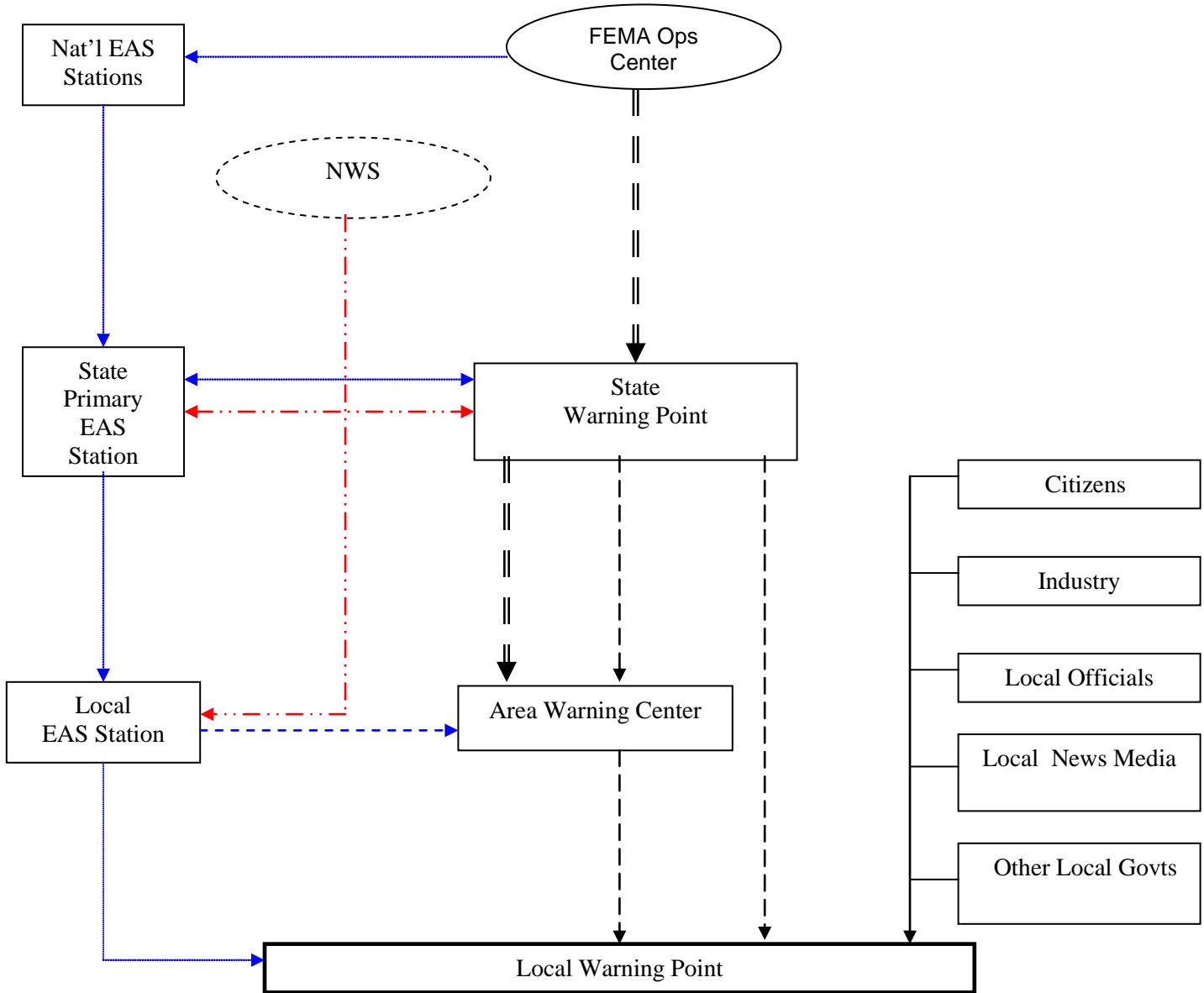
 Tab G Special News Advisory-Supplemental Evacuation Information

 Tab H Special News Advisory-Schools and Public Facilities

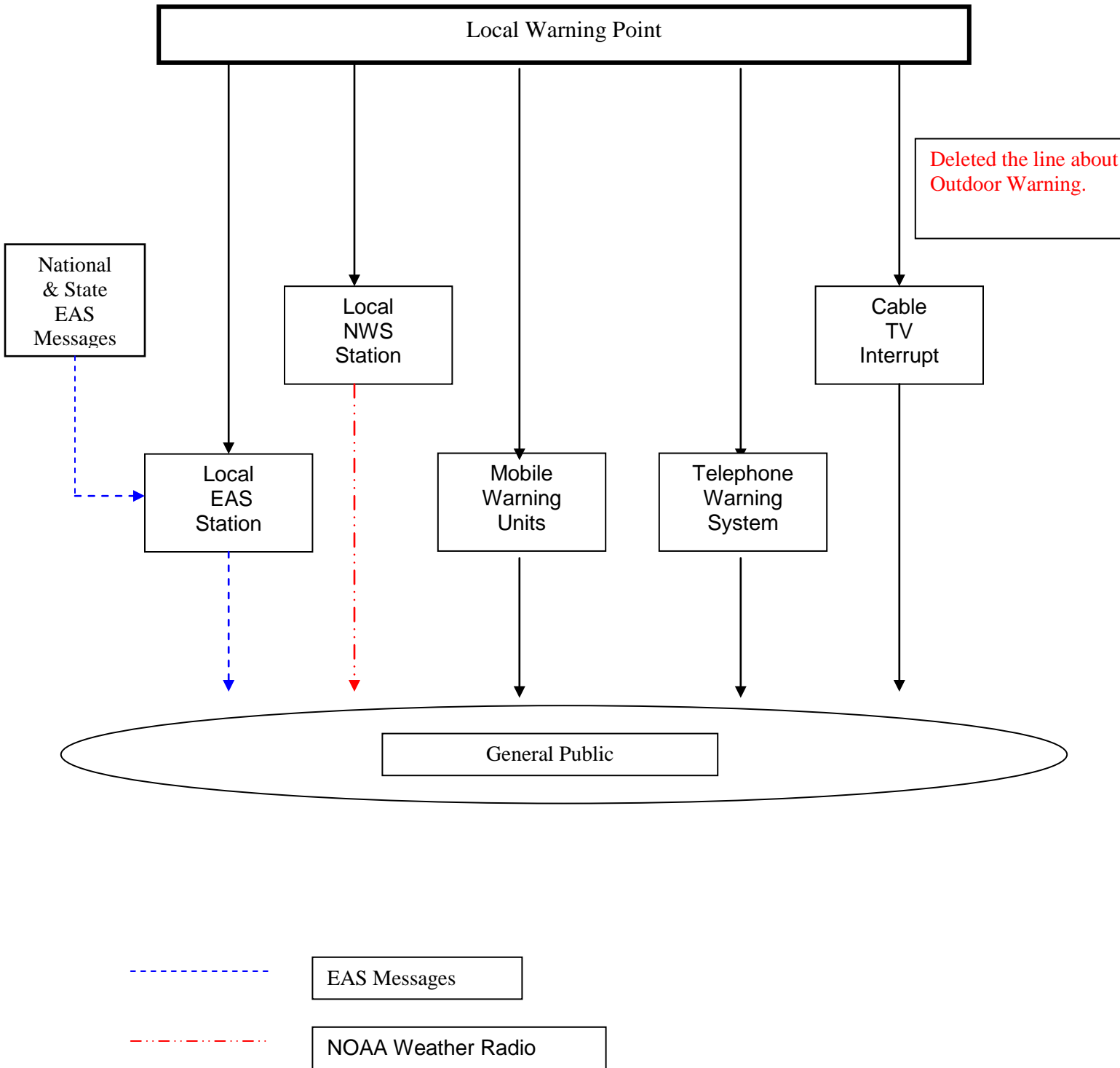
Appendix 7 Outdoor Warning System Diagram

LOCAL WARNING SYSTEM DIAGRAM

How Warnings Are Received



How Warnings are Disseminated



EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION MATRIX

Emergency Situation	Departments to be Notified	Individuals to be Notified
<i>Weather</i>		
Flash Flood Watch - local area		
Flash Flood Warning – local area	Road and Bridge/SO	Commissioners/LE
Flood Watch – local area		
Flood Warning – local area	Road and Bridge/SO	Commissioners/LE
Severe TS Watch – local area		
Severe TS Warning – local area		
Tropical weather system in Gulf	N/a	
Tropical Weather Watch or Warning includes local area	N/a	
Tornado Watch – local area		
Tornado Warning – local area	SO	LE
Winter Storm Watch – local area		
Winter Storm Warning – local area	Road and Bridge/SO	Commissioners/LE
<i>Technological Hazards</i>		
Aircraft crash within county/city	SO	LE
Fire – 2 alarm or less	Normal	
Fire – 3 alarm+ or county/city facility	Normal	
Mass casualty incident	OEM	EMC
Hazmat spill with casualties/evacuation	OEM	EMC
Hazmat spill with potential major environmental impact	DPS/DEM LCRA	TDEM, DC 512-848-1080
Incident involving potentially contaminated drinking water	Local entity LCRA	City or LCRA
Major explosion	Normal	
<i>Utilities</i>		
Electrical outage – 500+ users/2 hrs+	PEC	830-868-7155
Electrical outage – critical facility	PEC	830-868-7155
Sewer outage – critical facility	Local entity	
Sewage spill affecting waterways	LCRA	512-473-3200
Water outage – 500+ users/2 hrs+	Local entity	
Water outage – critical facility	Local entity	
<i>Security Issues</i>		
Major civil disturbance	SO	
Terrorist incident	DPS/DEM	TDEM, DC 512-848-1080

GENERAL WARNING POINT PROCEDURES

1. Receiving Warning Information

- A. The Local Warning Point (LWP) may receive emergency warnings by:
 - 1) TLETS message from the State Warning Point or Area Warning Center
 - 2) Telephone or fax from the State EOC
 - 3) Radio, telephone, or fax from the Area Warning Center
 - 4) Radio, telephone, or fax from state or federal agencies or other local governments.
 - 5) Radio, telephone or fax from industry, government employees, or citizens
- B. Incoming messages should be acknowledged if required (for example: national warning messages).
- C. The date and time on written messages and the date and time of receipt of all messages shall be entered in the Communication Log.
- D. For emergency situations reported by citizens and others unknown to the LWP operator, the operator should seek to confirm the source and information provided by any available means before taking action on the report, unless there are confirming reports from other sources.

2. Emergency Notifications

- A. The LWP shall make notifications of routine emergency situations to the department or agency that normally responds to such situations.
- B. For those emergency situations or potential emergency situations described in the Emergency Notification Matrix in Appendix 2, the LWP shall make notifications to the departments, agencies, and those local officials indicated in the matrix. Local officials may request that the LWP take specific actions or advise the LWP that they will take certain actions in response to the warning.
- C. Notifications of emergency situations and other actions taken in response to such notifications shall be recorded in the Communications Log.

3. Dissemination of Warnings

- A. The LWP may disseminate emergency warnings and public instructions by:
 - 1) Forwarding a voice or hard copy message to the local EAS station for broadcast
 - 2) Route alerting and door-to-door warning.
 - 3) Providing a voice or text message to the National Weather Service for broadcast on NOAA Weather Radio.
 - 4) Activating the local telephone warning system, which provides a voice message to selected telephone subscribers.

- B. The LWP may activate the local warning system for certain time-sensitive emergency situations. For other emergency situations, the LWP must seek approval from a key official to activate the local warning system.
- C. The LWP is authorized to activate the local warning system without prior approval for the following emergency situations:
 - 1) An NWS tornado warning for the local area or the confirmed sighting of a tornado on the ground in the local area.
 - 2) A national civil emergency warning received from the Area Warning Center. See Appendix 4.
 - 3) A catastrophic emergency situation that poses an immediate threat to life, such as a dam failure.
- D. For other emergency situations, the LWP shall relay the warning received to one of the following key officials and obtain guidance on activating the local warning system and the suggested content of any local warning messages:
 - 1) The County Judge
 - 2) The Emergency Management Coordinator
 - 3) The Sheriff
- E. When a decision is made to activate the warning system, an EAS message should be dispatched to local broadcasters first. Other warning systems should be activated as soon as possible thereafter.
 - 1) To save time and ensure completeness, the pre-scripted warning messages contained in Appendix 6 should be used as basis for warning messages where possible. However, it may be necessary for the LWP to prepare an appropriate message from scratch.
 - 2) National civil emergency warning messages received locally should not be forwarded to local EAS stations for broadcast, as plans call for federal authorities to enter such messages into EAS at the national level.
 - 3) If it is determined that route alerting and/or door-to-door warning are required, the LWP must alert [fire and police dispatchers/the Communications Center] to assign units to those tasks. The LWP should provide dispatchers with the warning message and any instructions that are to be disseminated so that these can be passed on to the units involved.
 - 4) Warning messages and public instructions should be updated as the situation changes and canceled when no longer needed.
- F. The LWP should record the activation of the various local warning systems and dispatch of warning and public instruction messages in its Communication Log.

4. Testing and Exercising the Warning System

A. System Testing

All components of the warning system will on a regular basis.

B. Test Procedures.

- 1) Should Burnet County acquire an outdoor warning system, it will be tested monthly on the second Monday of the month at 9a.m. In the monthly test, the steady ATTENTION or ALERT tone will be sounded for one minute. The wavering ATTACK WARNING tone will not be used for tests.
- 2) The preparation and transmission of a simulated warning message to the local primary EAS station shall be tested quarterly at a date and time agreed upon with the station. The test message shall not be broadcast. EAS stations are required by the FCC to conduct required weekly and monthly tests of their EAS equipment.

C. Exercises

- 1) Preparation of warning messages and public instructions and the activation of warning systems be included in emergency exercise activities where appropriate. This will ensure that system components are adequate and that appropriate operational procedures are in place.
- 2) If warning systems are activated at other than normal times for exercises, it is essential to give sufficient notice to the public that such activations will occur.

NATIONAL WARNING MESSAGES

1. Types of National Warning Messages

National warning messages include:

- A. Attack Warning
- B. Fallout Warning
- C. Natural & Technological Emergency Warning

2. National Warning Message Dissemination

National warning messages are disseminated by federal authorities from the FEMA Operations Center through the National Warning System (NAWAS) to the states. In Texas, such warning messages are received at the State Warning Point in Austin and relayed to Area Warning Centers around the state by the Texas Warning System (TEWAS). Area Warning Centers normally disseminate warning messages by TLETS to Local Warning Points. Local Warning Points whose TLETS service is inoperative may receive warning messages by telephone or radio.

3. Local Action Upon Receipt of A National Warning Message

- A. When national warning messages are received at the Local Warning Point, they should be disseminated as soon as possible through the local warning system. National warning messages should not be forwarded for local broadcast. Federal authorities will broadcast such warnings as national EAS messages.
- B. All national warning messages received verbally (by telephone or radio) should be acknowledged.

4. National Warning Messages

A. Attack Warning

- 1) Attack Warnings are issued when there is a threat of attack on the United States or portions of it.
- 2) Incoming message format:

“This is the FEMA (Alternate) Operations Center. This is an Attack Warning. Declaration time (date & time) Zulu.”

Note:

Zulu - 5 hours = Central Daylight Time; Zulu - 6 hours = Central Standard Time.

If the threat is limited to a specific area, the message will be tailored to describe the area at risk.

3) Termination message format:

“This is the FEMA (Alternate) Operations Center. The Attack Warning is terminated. Termination time (time) Zulu.”

B. Fallout Warning

- 1) Fallout warnings are intended to warn of radiation hazards resulting from nuclear detonations, accidental mishaps, and/or terrorist incidents.
- 2) There is no specific format for this type of message, but it should follow the general format of the message in paragraph 4.D.2).b) below.

C. Natural & Technological Emergency Warning

- 1) This type of warning may be issued to cover the following events: major natural disasters, errant domestic missile launch, reentering space debris, volcanic eruption, major dam failure, and other hazards to public health, safety, and property that may threaten a wide area.
- 2) Incoming message format:

“This is the FEMA (Alternate) Operations Center with a special announcement for all states or the following state(s) _____ or the following region(s) _____.”
Text: (free text message describing the problem and appropriate protective actions)”
- 3) There is no specific format for this type of message.

D. Accidental Missile Launch.

- 1) An accidental missile launch by the United States or other countries may generate a Natural & Technological Emergency Warning or a Fallout Warning or both, depending on the type of missile involved.
- 2) Incoming message format:
 - a) “This is the FEMA (Alternate) Operations Center with a Emergency Warning for the following (states, counties, cities). An accidental missile launch threatens the following areas: (states, counties, cities). Advise population by all means to take cover.”
 - b) For accidental launches which result in a nuclear weapons detonation, the following message will be used: “This is the FEMA (Alternate) Operations Center. An accidentally launched nuclear weapon detonated in (city, county, state) at _____ local time. Radioactive fallout is possible. Persons in (cities, counties, states) should be advised to remain under cover and await further instructions from state or local authorities. Residents are advised to take protective actions in accordance with local community shelter plans and to be alert for further instructions from state and local authorities. Residents in all other areas are advised that protective actions are not required at this time.”

- c) For accidental launches that do not result in a nuclear weapons detonation, the following message will be used: “This is the FEMA (Alternate) Operations Center. An accidentally launched nuclear weapon impacted in (city, county, state) at _____ local time. A nuclear detonation did not – repeat – did not occur. Persons in (cities, counties, states) should be alert for further instructions from state or local authorities. Residents in all other areas are advised that protective actions are not required at this time.”

EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM (EAS) PROCEDURES
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1. Purpose

The purpose of EAS is to provide real time communication, information, direction and instruction in the event of an emergency requiring public action.

2. EAS Plans

For purposes of coordinating the use of EAS, the State Emergency Communications Committee has developed a statewide EAS Plan. Local Area Emergency Communications Committees for each of the State's EAS Districts develop local EAS plans. These plans address the concept of operations for EAS, message priorities, procedures for activation of EAS, and message formats. Local plans typically designate individuals authorized to activate EAS and authentication requirements.

3. EAS Activation

A. Authority

The following individuals may be request activation of EAS:

- 1) The County Judge
- 2) The Emergency Management Coordinator
- 3) The Sheriff

Each individual is provided a set of code words to authenticate requests for EAS activation.

B. Methods

EAS messages will be transmitted from the Local Warning Point to EAS stations by telephone or fax.

- 1) Voice & Fax Messages. The authentication code should be provided for voice messages and included on fax messages. The LWP should coordinate with the EAS station to determine the methods of delivery. Faxed messages will normally be read by the station staff. Voice messages may be transmitted live or recorded and then transmitted; the latter is preferred if the message must be repeated. For voice messages, it is desirable that the individual generating the message work from a written script or notes to ensure that all essential information is covered.
- 2) Forwarding Messages for Transmission. EAS messages will be forwarded to the EAS Local Primary Station if the emergency situation affects areas beyond the local area or if stations that broadcast EAS messages in the local area are unattended during the period when EAS activation is required. Stations that are in unattended operation at certain hours of the day must set their EAS Decoder to Automatic Mode. If the emergency situations affect only an area served by one or two stations or cable companies, local officials may request EAS activation from those stations directly if they are staffed.

LOCAL WARNING & EMERGENCY INFORMATION MESSAGES

1. This appendix provides two types of warning messages for a number of emergency situations.
 - A. Warning Messages. These messages alert the public to emergency situations and provide directions on what they should do to protect themselves. As the time limit for warning messages transmitted via the Emergency Alert System (EAS) is approximately two minutes, and the capability of television warning displays is limited, warning messages are generally short and concise. Warning messages are generally disseminated through warning systems and broadcast every 15 minutes until they are canceled or replaced by an updated message
 - B. Special New Advisories. Special News Advisories amplify information contained in the warning messages, provide further information regarding an emergency situation, and may be used to provide information on impending threats that do not yet warrant public warning. Special News Advisories are generally sent to the media through normal communications channels for further dissemination to the public.
 - C. Warning messages and Special News Advisories have been pre-scripted to expedite timely dissemination; however, it may be necessary to modify the pre-scripted text and then add additional information.
 - D. Copies of the messages in this appendix are maintained on computers in the Local Warning Point and the EOC.
2. The following warning messages and Special News Advisories are provided in this appendix:
 - A. Tab A: Warning Message – General Incident
 - B. Tab B: Warning Message – Road/Facility Closure
 - C. Tab C: Warning Message – Shelter-in-Place
 - D. Tab D: Special News Advisory – Pre-Evacuation Information
 - E. Tab E: Warning Message – Urgent Evacuation
 - F. Tab F: Warning Message – Mandatory Evacuation
 - G. Tab G: Special News Advisory – Supplemental Evacuation Information
 - H. Tab H: Special News Advisory – Schools & Public Facilities
3. General Guidance for Warning & Public Information Messages
 - A. Protective Action Areas. Areas in which protective actions, such as evacuation or shelter-in-place, are being implemented should be described with reference to obvious geographic features, such as roads and rivers, rather than with abstract descriptions such as a one mile radius of some intersection. The preferred method of describing the area should use compass directions and neighborhood and landmark names where appropriate.

Example:

The area to be evacuated is north of Green Street, east of Olive St, south of James Road, and west of Rainy Road. This area includes the Green Tree and Hidden Hollow subdivisions and the Big Bargains Shopping Center.

- B. Evacuation Routes. The description of evacuation routes should make it clear which direction(s) evacuees should go and which travel directions they should avoid.

Example:

People who are west of Meridian Avenue should go west on Kingman Road or Exeter Drive. People who are east of Meridian Avenue should go east on 10th, 11th, or 12th Streets or Easy Street. Do not leave the evacuation area by going north.

Warning – General Incident

1. The Burnet County Office of Emergency Management has issued the following warning for those who live, work, or are visiting in Burnet County
2. An emergency situation involving Burnet County is currently in progress at: [*Describe location by reference to facility name (if known), street and cross street, other geographic features (rivers, rail lines, etc.), and neighborhood name where appropriate*]
3. Emergency personnel are currently responding to this incident and local officials are monitoring the situation. To keep yourself safe and avoid impeding the emergency response, please avoid this area until further notice.
4. To repeat, an emergency situation involving Burnet County is currently in progress at: (*Repeat location in 2 above*). Please avoid this area.
5. Do not call 911 for information about the emergency situation. Instead, stay tuned to this station for additional official information.

Warning – Road And Facility Closure

1. The Burnet County Office of Emergency Management has issued the following warning for those who live, work, or are visiting in Burnet County:
2. It has been necessary to close certain local streets and highways due to:
 - flooding
 - heavy accumulations of snow and ice
 - fire / explosion
 - incident involving hazardous materials
 - Other:
3. As of _____ today, the following roads have been closed by law enforcement officials:

<u>Street or Route</u> _____	<u>At or Between</u> _____
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Please avoid these routes.

4. If you must travel, use alternate routes, such as:
5. We recommend that you refrain from driving and remain at home due to the extremely bad travel conditions.
6. In addition, the following facilities have been closed due to the emergency situation:
7. Again, the roads and streets that have been closed are: *(Repeat list in 3 above)*
8. Please stay tuned to this station for additional information on the current emergency situation.

Warning - Shelter-in-Place

1. The Burnet County Office of Emergency Management has issued the following warning for those who live, work, or are visiting in Burnet County.
2. There has been an accidental release of hazardous material that is affecting a portion of the local area. People in the following area must take protective measures:

[Describe area boundaries]

3. If you are located in this area, do the following immediately in order to protect yourself:
 - A. Go inside your home, workplace, or the nearest building that appears to be reasonably air tight and stay there. Take your pets with you.
 - B. Close all doors, windows, and any fireplace dampers.
 - C. Turn off any heating or cooling system that draws in air from the outside.
 - D. Keep your radio on and tuned to receive emergency announcements and instructions
 - E. Gather items that you may need to take with you if you are advised to evacuate.
4. People traveling in vehicles should seek shelter in the nearest air tight structure. If a suitable structure is not immediately available, travelers should roll up car windows, close air vents, and turn off the heater or air conditioner until they reach a suitable building.
5. If shelter is not immediately available, keep a handkerchief, towel, or damp cloth snugly over your nose and mouth until you get indoors.
6. (If school is in session.)

Students at the following school(s) are taking shelter at their schools:

Parents should not attempt to pick up students at school until the hazardous situation is resolved and they are advised it is safe to do so.

Students at the following school(s) [have been/are being] evacuated to other facilities:

Parents should not attempt to pick up students from schools that have been evacuated. Local officials will provide information on where to pick up school children as soon as it is available.

7. If you know of any neighbors or co-workers with hearing or language problems or special needs, please advise them of this message.
8. Please do not call 911 or local emergency officials for information. Stay tuned to this station for additional information.

Special News Advisory – Pre-Evacuation

1. The Burnet County Office of Emergency Management has issued the following advisory for those who live, work, or are visiting in Burnet County.
2. Due to the threat of [_____], it may be necessary for people who live, work or are visiting in the certain local areas to evacuate in the near future. This area(s) that may be at risk include:

[Describe area boundaries]

3. Evacuation is NOT being recommended at this time. Local officials will advise you if evacuation is necessary. However, you should be prepared to evacuate if needed. To prepare, you should:
 - A. Assemble the following emergency supplies:
 - Clothing for your family for several days
 - Bedding, pillows, and towels
 - Prescription medicines & spare eyeglasses
 - Soap and toiletries
 - Baby food and diapers
 - Your address book or list of important telephone numbers
 - Your checkbook, credit cards, and cash
 - Your drivers license and identification cards
 - A portable radio and flashlight.
 - B. You should also:
 - Gather suitcases, boxes, or bags to hold your emergency supplies.
 - Be prepared to secure your home or office and your property before you depart.
 - Ensure your car is in good shape and you have adequate fuel.
 - Decide where you will go if you have to evacuate. Make arrangements with relatives or friends or consider making hotel or motel reservations.
4. Potential evacuation routes from the area(s) at risk include:
5. Potential evacuation routes from the area(s) at risk are described in:
6. If you know of any neighbors or co-workers with hearing or language problems or special needs, please advise them of this message. And if you have neighbors or co-worker's who do not have transportation, offer to assist them if you can.
7. We want to emphasize that this is a PRECAUTIONARY message about possible evacuation. Evacuation is NOT being recommended at this time.
8. Keep your radio or TV on and listen for further information about this situation. Please do not call 911 or local emergency officials for information as this ties up telephone lines needed for emergency operations.

Warning Message – Urgent Evacuation

1. The Burnet County Office of Emergency Management has issued the following warning for those who live, work, or are visiting in Burnet County.
2. Due to [_____] that [threatens/is affecting a portion of the local area, the County Judge recommend that people in the following area evacuate immediately to protect their health and safety:

3. Recommended evacuation routes from the area(s) at risk include:

4. Be sure to take essential items such as:
 - prescription medicines
 - eyeglasses
 - identification cards
 - checkbook
 - credit cards
 - valuable papers

Do not delay your departure to collect other belongings.

5. Take your pets with you, but make sure you bring a leash, crate, or cage for them. Some shelters will not accept pets.
6. If you have no means of transportation or if you are physically unable to evacuate on your own, ask a neighbor to assist you.
7. If you know of any neighbors or co-workers with hearing or language problems or special needs, please advise them of this message. And if you have neighbors or co-workers who need help or do not have transportation, offer to assist them if you can.
8. Repeating, local officials recommend the people in the following area(s) evacuate now:
(Repeat the area description in paragraph 2 above.)
9. Please do not use your telephone except to report a true emergency. Stay tuned to this station for more information and instructions from local officials.

Warning Message – Mandatory Evacuation

1. The Burnet County Office of Emergency Management has issued the following warning for those who live, work, or are visiting in Burnet County:
2. Due to ___[___], the County Judge, under Texas law, has ordered that people evacuate immediately the following area to protect their health and safety and the health and safety of possible rescuers:
3. Recommended evacuation routes from the area(s) at risk include:
4. Be sure to take essential items such as:
 - prescription medicines
 - eyeglasses
 - baby supplies
 - personal care items
 - identification cards
 - checkbook and credit cards
 - valuable papers

Listen to this station for more information on what you need to take with you. Secure your home before you depart.

5. Take your pets with you, but make sure you bring a leash, crate, or cage for them. Remember some shelters will not accept pets
6. Decide where you will stay until the emergency situation is resolved. Staying with relatives or friends or in a hotel or motel is a good choice.
7. If you can't stay with friends or relatives or find a motel room, listen to this station for more information on the locations of public shelters.
8. If you have no means of transportation or if you are physically unable to evacuate on your own, ask a neighbor to assist you.
9. If you know of any neighbors or co-workers with hearing or language problems or special needs, please advise them of this message. And if you have neighbors or co-workers who need help or do not have transportation, offer to assist them if you can.

10. Repeating, local officials, under Texas law, are ordering the people in the following area(s) evacuate immediately: *(Repeat the area description in paragraph 2 above.)*
11. Please do not use your telephone except to report a true emergency. Stay tuned to this station for more information and instructions from local officials.

Special News Advisory – Supplemental Evacuation Information

1. The Burnet County Office of Emergency Management has issued the following advisory for those who live, work, or are visiting in Burnet County:
2. Due to the threat of [____], local officials have recommended that people who live, work or are visiting in the following areas evacuate to protect their health and safety:

[Describe area boundaries.]

3. Use the following evacuation routes:
3. You should take the following emergency supplies with you :
 - clothing for your family for several days
 - bedding, pillows, and towels for each family member
 - prescription medicines & spare eyeglasses
 - soap and toiletries
 - baby food and diapers
 - address book or list of important telephone numbers
 - checkbook, credit cards, and cash
 - drivers license and identification cards
 - portable radio and flashlight, with extra batteries
4. Plan where you will stay until the emergency situation is resolved. Staying with relatives or friends or in a hotel or motel is a good choice.
5. If you cannot find another place to stay, temporary public shelters will be/have been opened at:
6. Take your pets with you, but make sure you bring a leash, crate, or cage for them as well as pet food.
7. Secure your property before you depart. Shut off all appliances, except refrigerators and freezers. Lock all doors and windows.
8. Expect travel delays on evacuation routes. If you have a substantial distance to drive, you may want to take drinks and ready-to-eat food in your car in case you are delayed.
9. If you have no means of transportation or if you are physically unable to evacuate on your own, ask a neighbor to help you.
10. If you have neighbors or co-workers, who need help or do not have transportation, offer to assist them if you can.

11. If you know of any neighbors or co-workers with hearing or language problems or special needs, please advise them of this message.
12. Please do not use your telephone except to report a true emergency. Stay tuned to this station for more information and instructions from local officials. If you missed some of the information in this advisory, it will be broadcast again soon.

Special News Advisory – School & Public Facilities

1. The Burnet County Office of Emergency Management has issued the following advisory for those who live, work, or are visiting in Burnet County.
2. The current emergency situation involving [_____]has affected the operation of the number of local facilities. This advisory is intended to provide you an update on the status of schools, hospitals, nursing homes, and other key facilities.
3. All local public schools have been closed.
4. The following schools have been closed and students [are being/have been]returned to their homes:

5. The following schools have been evacuated and their students relocated to other facilities:

School _____ Students relocated to:

Parents should pick up their children at these host facilities.

6. The following hospitals and nursing homes have been evacuated and their patients relocated to other facilities:

Facility _____ Patients relocated to:

7. The following government offices, parks, recreation areas, and other public facilities have been closed:
8. Please stay tuned to this station for more information and instructions from local officials.
9. And please refrain from using the telephone unless you have a true emergency.