

Non-Federal Continuity and IPAWS Resources

Other Continuity Resources

- A comprehensive list of additional templates, tools, and resources for non-federal stakeholders is found in the [Continuity Resource Toolkit](#).
- FEMA hosts a [Continuity Webinar Series](#). The webinars address continuity-related topics and include presenters from varied backgrounds and experiences. The webinars are free and open to the public. FEMA also maintains [archives](#) from previous webinars.
- FEMA maintains an email subscription service to distribute continuity-related information and news. [Sign up](#) for the latest continuity news and information from FEMA.
- FEMA hosts Independent Study courses on continuity through the Emergency Management Institute.
 - [IS-546.a](#), *Continuity of Operations Awareness*, is a one-hour course designed to provide a general overview of continuity principles.
 - [IS-547.a](#), *Introduction to Continuity of Operations*, is a two-hour course designed to provide a more in-depth introduction to continuity planning.
 - IS 551, [Devolution Planning](#), is a two-hour online course designed to provide students with the tools and practical knowledge necessary to develop an organization's devolution plan and procedures.
 - The [Reconstitution Planning Workshop](#), IS 545, is a four-hour online course aimed to assist organizations developing an effective and comprehensive reconstitution plan.
 - IS-525, [Guardian Accord](#), is a four-hour online continuity terrorism workshop designed to increase continuity awareness, preparedness, planning and coordination between federal and non-federal entities.
 - IS-523, [Resilient Accord – Exercising Continuity Plans for Cyber Incidents](#), is a three-hour online continuity cyber security workshop designed to increase continuity of operations awareness and discuss how to execute continuity operations during a cyber security event.
 - IS-520, [Introduction to Continuity of Operations Planning for Pandemic Influenza](#), is a one-hour online course that introduces students to the characteristics of a pandemic influenza, the effects that a pandemic influenza can have on every facet of our society, and the steps organizations can take to minimize the effects of a pandemic. IS-522, [Exercising Continuity Plans for Pandemics](#), is an eight-hour online course that covers fundamental continuity principles and processes but is focused on the special continuity requirements for pandemics.
- FEMA maintains outreach materials including:
 - A [Continuity of Operations brochure](#), which outlines important principles in continuity planning and a [Continuity of Operations for Tribal Stakeholders](#) brochure, which outlines important principles in continuity planning for tribal partners.
 - The [Continuity of Operations: What You Need to Know](#) video introduces audiences to continuity of operations planning. It addresses the importance of continuity to organizations, best practices of planning, considerations for the four phases of continuity, and immediate steps an organization and individuals can take to prepare for the next emergency.
 - The [Leadership Buy-In Training Guide](#) addresses the importance of senior leadership support for continuity and leadership's continuity roles and responsibilities. The Guide was created develop strategies for gaining senior leadership support and address key discussion point to present to senior leadership.

- The [Gaining Senior Leadership Support for Continuity Guide Factsheet](#) assists continuity managers in effectively conveying the importance of and need for a viable and executable continuity program that ensures the continued performance of an organization’s essential functions during a disruption.
- The [Stepping into Their Shoes: Gaining Senior Leadership Buy-in for Continuity](#) video introduces continuity managers to tools that imparts: 1) soft skills (leadership communications and understanding) and 2) tailored facts and available resources they need to feel comfortable and knowledgeable enough to frame resonating conversations with senior leadership about continuity and its benefits.
- FEMA has developed a [Continuity of Operations Telework Planning](#) brochure, which outlines telework considerations in continuity planning.
- The [Telework Exercise Template](#) is a tool to assist organizations in conducting a telework exercise to operate in a telework or socially-distanced environment and to determine actions to enhance current capabilities and better prepare for a pandemic influenza or continuity event. FEMA has also developed a [Telework Player Handbook Template](#) to serve as an example of an exercise player handbook for use when conducting a telework exercise.
- The [Continuity of Operations Essential Records brochure](#) provides important information regarding essential records and its role in continuity planning.

Other Integrated Public Alert and Warning Resources

- A comprehensive list of additional templates, tools, and resources for stakeholders is found on the [IPAWS website](#).
- Several Independent Study courses are available to provide additional training and information on IPAWS:
 - IS-247.a, [Integrated Public Alert and Warning System \(IPAWS\)](#), is a two-hour course that provides basic information on PAWS). The goal of this course is to provide authorized public safety officials with: increased awareness of the benefits of using IPAWS for effective public warnings; skills to draft more appropriate, effective, and accessible warning messages; and best practices in the effective use of Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) to reach all members of their communities.
 - IS-248, [IPAWS for the American Public](#), is a 15 minute course designed to provide the American Public with an introduction to IPAWS. It identifies the key features and benefits of IPAWS and the authorities responsible for sending alert and warning messages. It also describes the actions individuals can take before and during an emergency to protect themselves and loved ones.
 - IS-251, [IPAWS for Alerting Authorities](#), is a two-hour course designed this course to provide Alerting Authorities with an increased awareness about Collaborative Operating Groups (COGs)—how they are issued, their structure, their capabilities, and their responsibilities, and skills to draft more appropriate, effective, and accessible warning messages using best practices in alerting.
- FEMA provides governance and general IPAWS information, including:
 - The [IPAWS Architecture Diagram](#) shows how standards-based alert message protocols, authenticated alert message senders, and shared access and distribution networks work together to deliver alerts and warnings to public interface devices.
 - The [IPAWS Glossary](#) contains definitions of commonly used IPAWS terminology.

- Information created for the American public includes:
 - A fact sheet providing an [Overview of IPAWS for the American People](#), as local and State public safety officials, the National Weather Service, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and private industry work together to make sure the American people can receive alerts and warnings quickly through several different technologies at home, at school, at work, or even on vacation.
 - The [IPAWS 101 Presentation](#) introduces IPAWS, as well as its components and recent success stories
 - The IPAWS PMO, in partnership with Ready.gov and the Ad Council, created [WEA Public Service Announcements](#) for radio and TV, in English and Spanish.
 - [Instructional Material for Presenters](#) is a learning guide for students on Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs). This guide is used by educators to teach students about WEAs.
 - Wireless Emergency Alerts, or WEAs, are emergency messages sent to your cell phone by public safety and weather officials to grab your attention and help keep you safe during an emergency. This [WEA word search and activity sheet](#) teaches children about the benefits of WEAs.
 - WEAs about America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response (AMBER) alerts are sent from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in accordance with instructions from state AMBER coordinators. The AMBER alert program is a voluntary partnership between law-enforcement agencies, broadcasters, transportation agencies, and the wireless industry to activate an urgent bulletin in the most serious child-abduction cases. This [AMBER Alert Fact Sheet](#) provides additional information.
 - [Ready.gov](#) provides information on tools and technologies that can be used to send and receive alerts and warnings, how to prepare for emergencies, and what to do when you receive important information from your public safety officials.
 - America's PrepareAthon! is an opportunity for individuals, organizations, and communities to prepare for specific hazards through drills, group discussions, and exercises. These [PrepareAthon! Posters](#) provide feature Wireless Emergency Alerts.
 - This five-minute [video](#) offers a comprehensive overview of IPAWS.
 - The [Is Your Cell Phone WEA Capable? Fact Sheet](#) provides information on what to ask your cell phone provider and how to check to ensure your cell phone can receive WEAs.
 - The [Get Alerts, Stay Alive Flyer](#) shows how the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System reaches the public in their daily lives, with alerts on the radio, digital highway signage, online, on TV, smartphones and mobile devices.
- Information created for Public Safety Officials and Alerting Authorities includes:
 - The [How to Sign Up for IPAWS Fact Sheet](#) provides four steps for alerting authorities interested in becoming authenticated to send alerts and warnings through IPAWS. Detailed instructions on how to sign up for IPAWS, with the necessary application form, are also available on the [Alerting Authorities web page](#).
 - IPAWS provides authorized alerting authorities at all levels of government with the capability to integrate their alerts and warning systems with the national alert and warning infrastructure and send critical information to the public before, during, and after an emergency to allow the public to take the necessary actions to ensure their safety and minimize damage to property. The [Alerting Authorities Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) provides answers to commonly asked questions.
 - The [IPAWS Toolkit for Alerting Authorities](#) provides Federal, State, territorial, tribal and local public safety officials with resources to assist them as they adopt the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP), incorporate IPAWS, and ensure their communities understand how to access, use, and respond to public alert and warning information.

- The [IPAWS Adoption Checklist](#) offers public safety officials with step-by-step instructions to apply for access to IPAWS, COG-to-COG messaging, and the nation’s public alert and warning infrastructure. Public safety officials can use this checklist to review the requirements to use IPAWS and more effectively alert the public before, during, and after an emergency.
- The [Emergency Communication Plans and IPAWS](#) Template was created to assist federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial public safety officials in the creation of public alert and warning plans. This template can be used in part or in its entirety to support public safety efforts.
- The IPAWS Lab is a safe and effective environment for public safety officials to test and exercise alert and warning technologies interoperable with IPAWS. The [Checklist for Testing with the IPAWS Lab at JITC](#) provides instructions, assuming that an active Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is in place between the FEMA IPAWS Program Management Office and an alerting authority.
- The [list](#) of IPAWS AOSPs that have successfully demonstrated their IPAWS capabilities includes those providers that demonstrated their IPAWS capabilities via a series of webinars hosted by the IPAWS PMO.
- The IPAWS-OPEN system enables the interoperable exchange of messages between government organizations to enhance situational awareness and collaboration. The [Interoperable Message Exchange Fact Sheet](#) provides additional details.
- FEMA and the National Weather Service have partnered to operate the All-Hazards Emergency Message Collection System, also known as “HazCollect,” for the purpose of automatically relaying “Non-weather Emergency Messages.” The [All-Hazards Emergency Message Collection Fact Sheet](#) provides additional information.
- The [Alerting Authorities Reference Link](#) references alerting codes that can be used by alerting authorities to create alert and warning messages for the public.
- The IPAWS PMO supports efforts to mitigate identified limitations and improve IPAWS message delivery pathways by coordinating statewide testing activities. The [IPAWS Supported State/Regional Testing \(ISSRT\) Fact Sheet](#) provides additional information.
- Tribal elected officials may designate emergency alerting authorities to apply for access to IPAWS for the purpose of sending public alerts and warnings within a tribe's jurisdiction. The [How Indian Tribal Governments Can Sign Up For Public Alert and Warnings](#) fact sheet provides additional information.
- The [Alerting People with Disabilities and Others with Access and Functional Needs Fact Sheet](#) describes how the Common Alerting Protocol enables alerting authorities to send rich, multimedia messages which can be incorporated with emerging assistive technologies to provide alerts and warnings to the whole community.
- To reach the whole community, it is important to remember the wide diversity of the public's needs and preferences when it comes to receiving information. The [Alerting the Whole Community: Removing Barriers to Alerting Accessibility White Paper](#) provides additional information.
- The purpose of the [FY 2017 Supplemental Grant Guidance on Public Alert and Warnings](#) is to provide guidance to grantees on public alert and warning activities that can be funded through federal grants; technical standards that facilitate interoperability; and recommendations for planning, coordinating, and implementing alert and warning projects.
- The [EAS \(Emergency Alert System\) Best Practices Guide](#) was created in partnership with EAS participants to support incremental improvements by providing basic guidelines for EAS operation and maintenance.

- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate sponsored the Software Engineering Institute at Carnegie Mellon University to develop a [WEA \(Wireless Emergency Alerts\) Best Practices Guide](#) for alert originators. Additionally, SEI proposed recommendations for enhancing trust in the WEA service among stakeholders — a crucial factor in WEAs.
- [The Guide to Implementing the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System](#) was designed to assist communities with templates for A&N plans and procedures, governance MOUs, communication plans, and EAS and WEA survey forms as well as implementation checklists, technical specifications, and sample message text.
- The [Benefits of IPAWS for State and Local Alerting Authorities Fact Sheet](#) outlines key benefits for alerting authorities that complete authentication and use IPAWS.
- Organizations wishing to alert through IPAWS may download a [IPAWS Memorandum of Agreement Application](#). After completing, email the form to ipaws@fema.dhs.gov.
- FEMA has developed additional information on the components of IPAWS:
 - The [IPAWS-OPEN Fact Sheet](#) describes the importance and features of the IPAWS Open Platform for Emergency Networks, or IPAWS-OPEN, which authenticates and routes alerts and warnings to existing and emerging public alerting systems.
 - The [Common Alerting Protocol \(CAP\) Implementation Fact Sheet](#) provides descriptions of how the Common Alerting Protocol is integrated into IPAWS and explains the benefits of using a single standard.
 - The Emergency Alert System is a national public warning system that requires broadcasters, cable television systems, wireless cable systems, satellite digital audio radio service providers, and direct broadcast satellite providers to provide the President with communications capability to address the American people within 10 minutes during a national emergency. [Emergency Alert System \(EAS\) Fact Sheet](#) provides additional information.
 - Wireless Emergency Alerts are free messages sent directly to your cell phone, warning you about severe weather, AMBER Alerts and threats to safety in your area. The [Wireless Emergency Alerts \(WEA\) Fact Sheet](#) provides additional information.
 - Wireless Emergency Alerts are emergency messages sent to your cell phone by public safety and weather officials to grab your attention and help keep you safe during an emergency. The purpose of WEA is to provide an increasingly mobile American public with a free and fast way to receive critically important information. *The* [Wireless Emergency Alerts \(WEA\) Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) provides answers to commonly asked questions.