

EAS-Tab 15

NOAA/NWS Information

September 12, 2008

National Weather Service (NWS) offices in Seattle, Spokane, Portland, and Pendleton are authorized to activate the Emergency Alert System (EAS) in Washington state. These four NWS offices have short-fuse county warning responsibility for their respective parts of Washington (see attached map). EAS event codes that NWS uses are listed in Tab 17 (EAS Master List). EAS activation is recommended for short-fuse events (less than six hours to the event). In addition, EAS activation is authorized for flood warnings with unlimited lead time forecast to reach 'major' flood category, permitting time for low lying area evacuation. EAS activation is also authorized for 'high-impact' major wind storms with minimal coastal forecast wind speeds of 60 mph and/or gusts of 90 mph or more, and inland forecast winds of 50 mph and/or gusts of 75 mph or more, with restrictions on overnight activations.

NWS EAS messages are transmitted in Washington through NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) (see attached list of stations). NWS EAS message authentication is conducted through the EAS origination code.

If a NWS office is unable to activate EAS for a weather event because office communications are down or one or more NWR transmitters are off the air, Washington State Emergency Management serves as the backup and can transmit the EAS message for the NWS.

To report any kind of NOAA Weather Radio transmitter outage trouble, use this web site link to report the problem.....<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/outages.html> You can also contact the NWS forecast offices directly via these unlisted media phone numbers.

Seattle – 206-526-6857 |Portland – 503-326-2356 |Spokane 509-244-0537 |Pendleton – 541-276-4493

Watch/Warning Definitions

- Outlook -** The initial notice of potential hazardous flooding or weather. Issued up to 5 days in advance of a potential event, it is the initial message to help raise the first level of community awareness and preparedness.
- Watch -** Conditions are favorable for hazardous weather to occur in a designated geographic area, but not yet certain. For short-fuse severe weather events (e.g. - severe thunderstorm, tornado), a watch can be issued up to 12 hours in advance. For long fuse events (e.g. - flood, high wind), a watch is issued from 12 to 48 hours in advance.
- A watch is a planning tool, a second higher level of awareness and preparedness, permitting those who need to take preliminary actions to do so in a timely manner. Be alert, monitor NOAA Weather Radio or other weather information sources, and be PREPARED to take immediate action if the watch is changed to a warning.
- Warning -** Hazardous flood or significant weather is occurring or imminent within the next 12 hours in the designated geographic area(s). TAKE ACTION NOW to protect life and property!

NWS Office/ EAS Origination	Station	Frequency (MHz)	Transmitter Site	Counties Served
Seattle KSEW/NWS	KHB-60 Seattle	162.55	Cougar Mtn	Snohomish, King, Pierce Kitsap
	WXM-62 Olympia	162.475	Capitol Peak	Thurston, Grays Harbor, Mason Lewis, East Pacific, Pierce
	WZ-2502 Upper Cowlitz	162.425	Bennett Rd	Lewis
	KIH-36 Neah Bay	162.55	Bahokus Peak	Clallam, West Jefferson
	KXI-27 Forks	162.425	Mt Octopus	West Clallam, West Jefferson, Grays Harbor, North Pacific
	WWG-24 Puget Sound	162.425	Miller Peak	Clallam, East Jefferson, Island, Snohomish, Skagit, San Juan, Whatcom
	KAD-93 Blaine	162.525	'H' Street – Blaine	San Juan, Whatcom
Portland KPQR/NWS	KIG-98 Portland	162.55	Goat Mtn	Clark, Western Skamania
	KEC-91 Astoria	162.40	Naselle Ridge	Pacific, Wahkiakum Grays Harbor
	WNG-604 Woodland	162.525	Davis Peak	Clark, Cowlitz

NWS Office/ EAS Origination	Station	Frequency (MHz)	Transmitter Site	Counties Served
Spokane KOTX/NWS	WXL-86 Spokane	162.40	Mt Spokane	Spokane, Pend Oreille, Stevens, Lincoln, Whitman
	WWF-49 Okanogan Valley	162.525	Tunk Mtn	Okanogan, Ferry
	WXM-48 Wenatchee	162.475	Burch Mtn	Chelan, Douglas, Grant
	WXK-98 Lewiston	162.55	Lewiston Ridge	Asotin, Garfield, Whitman
	WWG-99 Bonners Ferry	162.50	Black Mountain	Pend Oreille
Pendleton KPDT/NWS	WXL-95 Spout Springs	162.40	Spout Springs	Walla Walla
	KIG-75 Yakima	162.55	Yakima Ridge	Yakima, Eastern Kittitas
	WWF-56 Tri-Cities	162.45	Rattlesnake Ridge	Benton, Franklin, Grant Yakima, Klickitat, Walla Walla, Adams
	WWF-57 Umatilla	162.50	Umatilla Ridge	Benton, Walla Walla
	KZZ-73 Dayton	162.525	Dewey Road	Columbia, Garfield
	WXM-34 The Dalles	162.40	Stacker Butte	Southern Skamania, Western Klickitat
	WXN-21 Cle Elum	162.40	Sky Meadows	Kittitas