

**REMARKS OF DAVID TURETSKY
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**National Alliance of State Broadcasting
Associations Conference (NASBA)
EAS Forum
MARCH 4, 2013**

As Prepared For Delivery

Thanks, Suzanne, and good afternoon everyone.

Suzanne, you and I have had a few conversations, but this is my first opportunity to address the NASBA membership since I became Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau Chief last May, and it's an honor and a real pleasure to be here. The Commission's decades-long partnership with broadcasters is one of our most enduring and important public safety relationships and I fully appreciate the critical role broadcasters play in providing local news and information to the public in emergencies.

Before we discuss important EAS equipment security issues today, I want to talk briefly about some recent experiences with emergency response issues that are important to broadcasters and also a practice involving non-English language broadcasters that we began following last year.

First, for a long time we have worked closely with broadcasters and broadcast associations in connection with catastrophic weather events.

In connection with Sandy, the Bureau, often working closely with state broadcast associations, including those in New York and New Jersey, worked with our governmental partners to try to facilitate access by broadcasters in stricken areas to their key facilities, such as studios and transmitters, as well as help with obtaining fuel supplies for backup generators. We urged that satellite trucks be given various fuel priorities, which constitute backup facilities as well as a critical source of news, as is typically the case in hard-hit southeastern states. Bureau staff provided coverage maps and emergency points of contact to FEMA and state Emergency Operation Centers as part of the combined federal response to that catastrophic weather emergency. When a small religious broadcaster in NJ reached our 24/7 FCC Operations Center looking for help late one night to obtain a little bit of fuel the next day, we were on the phone with the NJ Broadcasters Association to see whether there was another local station that might solve the problem, because we know the spirit of broadcasters and the state associations.

Before Hurricane Isaac, we adopted a practice we follow now before major forecasted storms because we understand that there are communities out there that rely on non-English broadcasts for critical information.

Here's what we do. We analyze our license database and other available information to identify non-English format broadcast stations in the likely disaster area. This allows our Operations Center to conduct targeted outreach and provide stations with FCC contact information in the event broadcasters need assistance. We also share that list of stations with Federal responders as needed to highlight the value of these non-English stations to personnel coordinating priorities on the ground.

In the case of Hurricane Isaac, I am particularly proud of our outreach to Spanish-speaking radio stations in the New Orleans, Louisiana area both prior to and after the hurricane's landfall. We identified that the very limited number of Spanish language broadcasters there and we thought it was important that a source of Spanish language information remain available.

Bureau staff worked with station landlords to allow station personnel to remain in the stations during mandatory evacuations. In addition, Bureau staff maintained constant contact with station managers and with FEMA after landfall to provide support to maintain or restore operations, including arrangements for backup power fuel supplies, in order to keep at least some non-English broadcasts on the air until regular power was restored.

The Bureau engaged in similar outreach in support of broadcasters in connection with Superstorm Sandy and the recent blizzard, Nemo.

These recent examples underscore why our working partnership can mean a lot to all broadcasters and communities, both during a crisis and at the recovery stage.

Finally, I know my Deputy Lisa Fowlkes spoke with all of you about the Commission's DIRS program which allows us to identify and quickly reach out to broadcasters in order to facilitate necessary assistance.

To those of you who are not registered with DIRS, let me ask that you consider doing so immediately. And if you have any questions about the program, please consult information we've posted at the Commission's web site (www.FCC.gov). Or contact us directly at the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau.

Thanks again for inviting me to participate at this important event today!

