



Working Group 2

Wireless Emergency Alerts

Status Update

June 18, 2014

Brian M. Josef, CTIA—The Wireless Association®, Co-Chair

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WEA Working Group Schedule

- We have established three active WEA Sub-Working Groups, which hold calls on a weekly basis to address priority deliverables.
 1. Testing Sub-Working Group;
 2. Geographic Targeting, Message Content and Character Limitation; and
 3. Security Sub-Working Group.
- These Sub-Working Groups are holding separate meetings and reporting back to the full WG.



Testing Sub-Working Group

- The Testing Sub-Working Group utilizes the following tools for consideration of reports and recommendations:
 - User surveys.
 - Third party research.
 - Subject Matter Expert discussions.
 - Conference Calls.
- Report and recommendations submitted for adoption today.

Geographic Targeting, Message Content and Character Limitation Sub-Working Group

- The Geographic Targeting, Message Content and Character Limitation utilizes the following tools for consideration of reports and recommendations:
 - Federal government agency and third party research.
 - Subject Matter Expert discussions.
 - Conference calls.
- Plan to deliver report and recommendations for September 2014 CSRIC meeting.



Geographic Targeting, Message Content and Character Limitation Sub-Working Group

- Examining enhancements to WEA since deployment.
- Assessing alert originator needs against current and future technical capabilities, while accounting for public response, legacy technologies, and backward compatibility issues.
- Engaging in evaluation of WEA message length options, geo-targeting options, and comprehensive mobile alerting concepts.



Security Sub-Working Group

- Convening the Security Sub-Working Group to address secure origination, transmission, distribution and receipt of WEA messages.
- While no security breaches to date, looking at security at various alert “touch points,” including:
 - Alert originator; aggregator; Federal gateway; carrier network; and device.
- Will coordinate as appropriate with other WGs.
- Report and recommendations planned for December 2014 CSRIC meeting.

Next Steps

- Launch additional sub-working groups addressing remaining study areas.
- Schedule face-to-face meeting.
- Continue with weekly calls.
- Provide periodic status updates to Steering Committee and full CSRIC.





Working Group 2
Wireless Emergency Alerts

Testing Sub-Working Group
Report and Recommendations

June 18, 2014

Tim Dunn, T-Mobile USA, Co-Chair

Matt May, Johnson County, KS Emergency Management & Communications, Co-Chair

Testing Subgroup Objectives

- Examine the WEA Service to explore the various facets of the current testing paradigm with a goal of developing an approach that would support an option for end-to-end testing.
- Consider needs and interests of the stakeholders involved, including alert originators, federal government entities, state/local government organizations and the commercial mobile service providers.

Testing Sub-Working Group

- Engaged in review of Commercial Mobile Service Alerts Advisory Committee Recommendations, standards and FCC rules for existing WEA testing framework.
- Examined constraints of existing Routine Monthly Test process.
- Assessed requirements, expectations and outcomes of state and local WEA testing, along with issues and challenges with present testing.
 - Surveyed 226 WEA-authorized Alert Originators.
 - Utilized research studies addressing recommendations for internal testing of existing WEA operations.

Testing Recommendations

- (1) The FCC should amend its rules to allow Alerting Authorities to conduct a Localized WEA Test to Opt-in Participants.
- (2) The FCC should clarify that WEA end-to-end testing beyond the Required Monthly Test (RMT) specified in FCC rules is not precluded.
- (3) The FCC should confirm that Section 602(e) of the WARN Act covers testing and clarify that the Section 602(e) protections against liability extend to WEA testing, as this is a vital/essential function associated with alert transmission.

Recommendation for Localized Opt-In Testing

- A WEA Alert Originator may conduct a scheduled Local WEA Test (LWT) that targets cooperating partners and other interested parties who may provide feedback to the alert originator.
- Participants must opt-in to monitor the test.
- This process assumes the alert is not received by the general population, but only by persons who had specifically opted-in on their device to receive the test, such as volunteers and interested partners.
- Subscribers could opt-out of receiving the LWT on their device.

Recommendation for Localized Opt-In Testing (cont'd)

- Prior to the LWT, the Alert Originator coordinates with testing participants to receive the LWT on their device.
- The Alert Originator defines the geography for the test, crafts the message content, and submits to FEMA/IPAWS.
- FEMA/IPAWS verifies the LWT and confirms no ongoing live alert from within or near the particular LWT alert area.
- FEMA/IPAWS sends the LWT to carriers which have coverage within the alert area.
- Carriers then receive and process the LWT.
- Test participants and others who have configured their devices configured for LWT then receive the LWT.



Recommendation for Localized Opt-In Testing (cont'd)

Considerations:

- This testing process is similar to an actual, live WEA activation.
- Benefits include system verification, alert originator proficiency, and public awareness.
- Test provides limited public exposure to an actual WEA.
- Alert originators will educate participants prior to testing.
- This option requires standards change and development work for devices, CMSP infrastructure, and the FEMA/IPAWS Federal Alert Gateway.

Recommendation for Waivers

- The FCC should clarify that WEA end-to-end testing beyond the RMT is not precluded by existing rules.
- Where the FCC finds that its current rules may preclude such testing, the FCC should waive those requirements.
- Alternatively, the FCC could initiate a proceeding to modify any conflicting requirements in accordance with the “Opt-in” WEA Testing paradigm and issue an interim waiver pending the conclusion of any rulemaking, standardization and development activities.



Recommendation for Liability Protection

- The FCC should confirm that Section 602(e) of the WARN Act covers testing.
- If necessary, the FCC should work with Congress or through other legislative means to clarify that the Section 602(e) protections against liability afforded to commercial mobile service providers extend to any WEA testing, as this is a vital/essential function associated with alert transmission.



Recommendation on Reporting Procedures

- Industry and government stakeholders (alert originators, FEMA, and CMSPs) should develop a best practices ATIS/TIA standard for defining and reporting on significant problems.
- These procedures would be used to report significant issues encountered during WEA testing.

Consideration and Approval

- CSRIC WG2 recommends that the CSRIC Council approve the Testing Subgroup Report and Recommendations.