



A NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR INTEGRATED PUBLIC WARNING POLICY AND CAPABILITY

**2nd National Summit on Public Warning In America
June 28, 2004**

MAJOR FINDINGS – MAY 2003

- ✓ Existing systems are fragmented, lack interoperability, provide inconsistent messages and fail to take advantage of new technologies.
- ✓ Warnings do not reach many people at risk and often reach people not at risk.
- ✓ Warning is not a technology problem. Solution requires standards, policies and procedures – and an educated public.
- ✓ An effective warning capability requires that government and industry work together as partners
- ✓ No more studies are needed.

RECOMMENDATIONS – AUG 2004

- ✓ **Collaboration & Consensus**
- ✓ **Existing Infrastructure Assessment**
- ✓ **Interoperability & Integration**
- ✓ **Creating a National Warning Capability**
- ✓ **Education & Awareness**

✓ Collaboration & Consensus

- *A collaborative process that involves all interested stakeholders.*
- **A directory of warning originators and officials at the local, state and federal levels and relevant public entities.**
- **Regional workshops on alert and warning.**
- *A national summit on alert and warning.*
- **An awards and recognition program for excellence in alert and warning.**

✓ Existing Infrastructure Assessment

- An assessment of the key federal legacy systems
- *Recommendations on integrating Weather Radio, NAWAS and EAS;*
- An inventory and description of existing major alert and warning responsibilities and systems at the federal, state and local level;
- *A handbook for local and state warning officials that identifies the key warning technologies that are available*
- Data regarding the penetration and effectiveness of existing public alert and warning systems.
- *Recommendations regarding the characteristics of an effective public alert and warning capability.*

✓ **Interoperability & Integration**

- *A common alerting protocol.*
- **A lexicon of standard terminology for alert and warning.**
- **A compilation of best practices in the alert and warning arena;**
- **A compendium of proposed policies and procedures necessary for the efficient operation of a national alert and warning system.**
- **Recommendations on key policy issues that will affect the development and operation of a national alert and warning capability.**

✓ **Creating a National Capability**

- **A national consensus on a proposed architecture and framework for a national alert and warning capability;**
- **Standard metrics for measuring warning effectiveness.**
- **A demonstration pilot of a national alert and warning information capability.**
- **An annual report on the state of the nation's alert and warning capability.**

✓ **Education & Awareness**

- Educational materials that can be distributed to first responders, emergency managers and decision makers.
- Community education programs for the public.
- Regional workshops.
- A national clearinghouse on alert and warning issues.
- An annual National Public Warning Awareness Day to promote public awareness of alert and warning through community-based tests and educational activities.

CREATING A NATIONAL ALL-HAZARD WARNING CAPABILITY: IMPLEMENTING THE VISION

YEAR 1 - \$2.9 M; YEAR 2 - \$5.5 M

\$8.4 M

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EDUCATION & AWARENESS

Clearinghouse, Community Education, National Public Warning Awareness Day

Year 1 - \$247,000; Year 2 - \$2,951,000

CREATING A NATIONAL WARNING CAPABILITY

Consensus, metrics, architecture, pilot project

Year 1 - \$195,000; Year 2 - \$1,270,500

INTEROPERABILITY & INTEGRATION

Common Alerting Protocol, Common Terminology, Best Practices

Year 1 - \$520,000; Year 2 - \$150,000

EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT

Legacy systems, existing technologies & responsibilities

Year 1 - \$897,000; Year 2 - \$130,000

COLLABORATION & CONSENSUS

Office, Website, Workshops, Awards Program, National Summit

Year 1 - \$1,034,800; Year 2 - \$989,300

CHARACTERISTICS OF AN EFFECTIVE PUBLIC WARNING CAPABILITY

- All hazard
- Take advantage of existing assets (e.g. NWR & EAS)
- Doesn't put anyone at risk
- Supports multiple warning sources
- Individually addressable
- Only authorized officials may enter warnings
- Enhance local control
- Secure, redundant & available
- Open, non-proprietary architecture
- Uniform terminology
- Clear & consistent messages
- Support multiple languages & users with disabilities
- Available during power outages
- Multiple distribution channels using multiple technologies
- Easily understood by public

THE CHALLENGE

To develop a national public warning capability that will, during times of emergency, get the right information to the right people at the right time, regardless of their location, the time of day or night and any special needs.