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## PLEASANTS COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

### ANNEX C: NOTIFICATION AND WARNING

<b><i>Related Federal ESFs</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ESF #2: Communications</li><li>• ESF #5: Emergency Management</li></ul>
<b><i>Related State Annexes</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Annex B: Notification and Warning</li></ul>
<b><i>Purpose</i></b>	The purpose of this annex is to describe the process for the dissemination of warning information to emergency services organizations and the general public in Pleasants County during emergency conditions.
<b><i>Primary Agencies</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pleasants County Office of Emergency Services (PCOES)</li></ul>
<b><i>Support Agencies</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pleasants County Comm Center</li><li>• IPAWS</li><li>• Local Media Outlets</li><li>• Nixle</li><li>• Law Enforcement</li><li>• Fire</li><li>• NWS</li></ul>
<b><i>Authorities</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public Law (PL) 93-288, Section 202, as amended</li></ul>

## I. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

### A. Situation

1. The Pleasants County warning point is located at the 911 Center/ EOC Facility at 215 Clay Street in St. Marys.
2. The following print and broadcast media are available locally.
  - a. Emergency Alert System (EAS): WXIL (FM 95) Primary EAS Station
  - b. WRRR (FM 93.9) is the primary Pleasants County radio station.
  - c. Newspaper: *Pleasants County Leader, St. Marys Oracle*
  - d. Radio (AM): 630 (St. Marys), 910 (Marietta), 1050 (Parkersburg)
  - e. Radio (FM): 91.9 (Belpre), 93.9 (St. Marys), 95.1 (Parkersburg), 96.9 (Williamstown), 100.1 (Vienna), 100.9 (Harrisville), 102.1 (Marietta), 103.1 (Parkersburg).
  - f. Television: WBOY, WDTV, WTAP, Suddenlink
3. EOC staff members are accessible by landline telephone, cellular phone, and/or pager or radio.
4. According to Census 2010 information, approximately 1% of Pleasants County's population speaks a language other than English at home. (\*NOTE: This does not mean that they cannot understand English.
5. Any hazard incident could necessitate the dissemination of warnings.

### B. Assumptions

1. Existing forms of warning and notification will require augmentation in order to provide sufficient warning to large segments of the population.
2. The use of mobile public address systems and/or door-to-door notification by emergency response personnel supplemented by the Everbridge Mass Notification System will be required when a quick onset emergency (e.g., hazardous material spill) occurs necessitating an evacuation.
3. The warning system will withstand the effects of most hazards that could affect the county.
4. Some people directly threatened by the hazard may misunderstand, not hear, or ignore warning information.

## II. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. General

1. Warnings can be disseminated by one (1) or a combination of the following:
  - a. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio,
  - b. AM and FM commercial radio stations,
  - c. Cable television providers,
  - d. Commercial television stations,
  - e. EAS
  - f. Everbridge Mass Notifications
  - g. IPAWS
  - h. Siren and Public Address (PA) system-equipped emergency vehicles.
  - i. Radio messages from 911 Center to radios and scanners.
2. The West Virginia State Police (WVSP) is the point of contact for the National Warning System (NAWAS) and operates the West Virginia portion of the system.
3. Warnings will be broadcast as necessary depending upon the emergency. Notifications will be broadcast at several pre-determined times of the day if the incident is long term.

B. Activation and the Warning System

1. Emergency services organizations (i.e., Law Enforcement, Emergency Medical Services [EMS], and the Fire Service) should be notified of emergency incidents by their normal alert methods.
2. Sensitive incidents should notify responders by Active 911.
3. Support agencies can be notified as necessary:
  - a. Mid Ohio Valley Health Department: WV Bureau for Public Health, Centers for Disease Control (CDC), telephone, cellular phone, or emergency services providers
  - b. American Red Cross: Telephone, pager, or cellular phone
  - c. Pleasants County Schools: Telephone, radio, or emergency services providers
  - d. Nursing homes: Telephone or emergency services providers
  - e. Covered facilities: Telephone or emergency services providers.
4. The PCOES Director should be notified of the following situations:
  - a. Weather alerts, watches, or warnings.

- b. Hazardous material spills, releases, or fires (including biohazard threats and commercial vehicle accidents).
  - c. Confirmed explosions (other than small transformers).
  - d. Explosive devices confirmed or threat.
  - e. Reports (and/or confirmation) of wide areas of air, water, or soil contamination or odors
  - f. Multiple reports received or illness in a specific area of the county.
  - g. Aircraft incidents
  - h. Whenever there is a request to the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) or WV Division of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) for action
  - i. Reports of widespread electricity outages
  - j. Terrorism alerts received.
  - k. Train derailments.
5. The PCOES Director should notify additional EOC volunteers if incident is major, and the EOC needs activated.
  6. All notifications to the public and to the media shall come from the OES Director, PIO, or from the EOC/ 911 Center.
  7. Notifications to the State
    - a. The PCOES Director should notify the West Virginia Emergency Management Division (WVEMD) if the EOC is being activated.
    - b. Once the EOC is activated, it should maintain communications with the State EOC (SEOC).
    - c. The SEOC should be notified of any significant changes in emergency conditions.
    - d. WebEOC should be used whenever possible to notify the state.
- C. Special Populations
1. Warnings for the hearing impaired can be via print media, crawlers on television stations, or by door-to-door notifications from responders.
  2. Warnings to nursing homes can be provided via weather radio, telephone, AM/FM radio, and/or television. Staff in nursing homes can disseminate warnings to residents.
- D. State and Federal Support

1. State
  - a. State resources may be notified of an incident in many ways, including county, local, and other sources.
  - b. According to the *West Virginia Emergency Operations Plan*, local and county warning points are to relay warnings to the state level.
  - c. If a notice is received by the state warning point, it should activate the NAWAS warning terminals to disseminate messages to county warning points.
2. Federal
  - a. If federal assistance is necessary, the appropriate state agency should make requests for those resources.
  - b. The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is responsible for notifying deploying federal agencies via guidelines outlined in Emergency Support Function (ESF) #5 of the National Response Framework (NRF).
  - c. ESF #2 communications guidelines may be employed internally by federal agencies. Local and state communication with federal forces should be coordinated at the incident when federal forces arrive.

### **III. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **A. Roles**

1. Those that receive the notifications outlined in this annex should ensure full notification of their personnel.
2. Pleasants County 911 (Comm Center) and PCOES are the primary agencies responsible for disseminating warnings.

#### **B. Responsibilities**

1. Primary Agencies
  - a. Pleasants County Office of Emergency Services
    - i. Notify local support agencies if necessary.
    - ii. Provide notifications and warnings to the WVEMD.
    - iii. Notify EOC staff, as necessary.
    - iv. Coordinate with local media outlets, as necessary.
2. Support Agencies
  - a. Pleasants County Comm Center

- i. Dispatch emergency services organizations.
- ii. Receive warning information via telephone, NAWAS, EAS, Weapon/Nlets, etc.
- iii. Broadcast warnings and notifications to the public and responders by radio.
- iv. Notify the PCOES Director of significant emergency incidents.
- b. Local Media Providers
  - i. Publishes emergency press releases as requested by the PCOES.
  - ii. Relays accurate information to the public.
  - iii. Broadcast warnings and notifications to the public.

#### **IV. DIRECTION AND CONTROL**

- A. The 911 supervisor in the 911 Center should ultimately coordinate the warnings that are issued by the center.
- B. The PCOES Director should maintain control over the warning information released from either the PCOES or EOC.

#### **V. CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT**

- A. The following agencies serve as the warning point for Pleasants County:
  - 1. Pleasants County Comm Center (911 Center)
  - 2. Pleasants County Sheriff's Department
  - 3. PCOES.
- B. PCOES Director
  - 1. PCOES Director
  - 2. Fire Chief of affected jurisdiction.
  - 3. Fire Chief of unaffected jurisdiction

#### **VI. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS**

- A. Administration
  - 1. Individual agencies should maintain their own internal protocols for documenting the receipt of warnings.
  - 2. PCOES personnel should keep records of when they provide notifications to

support agencies and the state.

**B. Logistics**

1. Most notifications should be provided via telephone, cellular phone, or e-mail.
2. The following warning systems are available in central communications:
  - a. National Warning System (NAWAS) – Dedicated telephone circuit providing state and national information.
  - b. Emergency Alert System (EAS) – A federally-coordinated warning system using commercial and public radio and television stations to broadcast emergency warnings to the general public.

**VII. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE**

- A. The PCOES Director and the 911 Director should collaborate in the maintenance and improvement of this annex.
  
- B. The annex should be reviewed, updated, and modified, as necessary.