



# THE RESPONDER

## NEWS OF THE IAEM-STUDENT COUNCIL

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EMERGENCY MANAGERS

January 2010  
Volume 3 Issue 1

### One Message Over More Devices to More People for Maximum Safety

By Tiffany Perry, Booz | Allen | Hamilton  
Contractor Support to FEMA IPAWS

#### COMMON ALERTING PROTOCOL (CAP)

Standards and protocols are an important cornerstone supporting interoperability. Common standards allow alert and warning messages to be carried across diverse systems. Over the past year, IPAWS has been working with the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Systems (OASIS) – an independent standards body – to develop a profile, based on the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP), which will meet the needs of the emergency alerting community. In December 2008, IPAWS provided OASIS with draft requirements for the elements to be included in the profile. OASIS refined the requirements and published the draft for public comments, particularly seeking input from emergency managers--the primary users of the profile--as well as equipment and software vendors who would need to create conforming products. The draft profile went through two rounds of public comment and feedback.

In October 2009, OASIS voted to approve the OASIS CAP v1.2 USA IPAWS Profile as a technical specification. The IPAWS Program Management Office is now working on the next phase which is to finalize requirements for the CAP to EAS Implementation Guide that is designed to translate a CAP message, which is internet-protocol based, into a format that can be retransmitted by participating EAS broadcasters. Additionally, FEMA will begin



Antwane Johnson, Director of IPAWS, “Integrated Public Alert and Warning Systems” (IPAWS), National Continuity Programs, DHS FEMA

gathering future requirements for CAP to address special needs, video media, and security capabilities. At the IAEM conference, IPAWS successfully demonstrated its geo-targeting alert system (GTAS) software for use by state and local emergency managers. In addition to visual, table-top GTAS presentations, IPAWS staff demonstrated the interoperability of systems using CAP by sending a GTAS alert to Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) which then passed it on to all the devices simultaneously at the OASIS booth including cell phones, iPhones, computers, and sirens in CAP format.

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Website address: [www.iaem.com/students](http://www.iaem.com/students)



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To assist with the widespread adoption of the CAP profile, IPAWS has established a Conformity Assessment Program. The purpose of the program is to ensure that Emergency Alert System (EAS) participants purchase alert and warning equipment that is interoperable, and comply with the IPAWS CAP Profile. The IPAWS CAP Profile's open standard facilitates manufacturing by multiple suppliers and will promote interoperability among alert and warning systems at the federal and state levels as well as across different alert delivery systems. In August 2009, IPAWS awarded a contract to Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) to manage the Conformity Assessment Program. IPAWS and EKU held a kick-off meeting in November 2009. EKU is currently developing the testing procedures and scripts for the assessment program with plans to accept the first industry equipment for assessment in early 2010.

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### Technology in a Disaster

By Jocelin Borisow, TSgt, USAF  
NCOIC, Emergency Management Training

If a disaster were to occur right now, would you know where to get information to know what to do and where to go? Communication has never been more readily available. In fact, the International Telecommunications Union reports that cellular subscriptions could reach 4.6 billion (<http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/statistics/>) by the end of 2009 which is over 68% of the 6.6 billion people that make up the world population. The U.S. alone accounts for over 270 million cellular phones which is over 86% of the population. With that in mind, many local, county, state, and federal organizations are utilizing these methods of communication to ensure effected populaces receive the widest dissemination of emergency information.

Because of today's flourishing technology there has never been so many different communication methods available for emergency notification. Some more recent innovations include social media sites such as Twitter, MySpace, Facebook, and of course organizational websites. These websites can offer an individual the opportunity to not only learn what each organization has to offer but also what the current conditions in the local area. Some organizations offer options to get e-mails and texts to warn of possible disasters or when disasters actually happen. So, how do you find out what your community utilizes to disseminate information? The answer is easy with the application of key information and making use of Internet searches. For example, if I type "Alaska Emergency Management Twitter" the results produced the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management website. At that point Homeland Security and Emergency Management offer services on Twitter.

Being familiar with hazards that are typical for your area is another very important tool for learning what type of information you might need to know in the event of a disaster. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's website ([www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)) has the most current information on emergency and disaster declarations. This is also a great resource to find out what kind of disasters can happen in your geographic location. Depending on the type of hazard, you may want to visit websites of other organizations that offer even more detailed information on what you should do in your region with specific types of disasters common to your location. Organizations that



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can help you understand what types of disasters are common to your location are the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ([www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)), National Hurricane Center ([www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov)), United States Geological Survey ([www.usgs.gov](http://www.usgs.gov)), West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Center ([wcatwc.arh.noaa.gov](http://wcatwc.arh.noaa.gov)), Pacific Tsunami Warning Center ([www.prh.noaa.gov/ptwc/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/ptwc/)), World Organization of Volcano Observatories(WOVO) ([www.wovo.org](http://www.wovo.org)) and your city, county, and state government websites.

In a crisis situation many professionals believe in the venerable adage of 'Murphy's Law,' if it can go wrong most likely it will go wrong. The proverbial 'if' becomes when and then suddenly you are left without Internet or cellular service, wondering what happens now? This is why communities still have public address systems in place. The Public Safety & Homeland Security Bureau is responsible for oversight of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) which still conducts test on radio and television to "alert the public about imminent dangerous weather conditions."

(<http://www.fcc.gov/pshs/services/eas/>)

Another method is Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) which is the nation's alert and warning network. This network is utilized during an emergency to "provide the public with life-saving information quickly." IPAWS not only uses radio and television but also integrates the internet, cellular, and even residential phones.

### What is the Difference Between IAEM-SC and IAEM-USA SR?

By Brian Silva

When IAEM decided to become a fully international organization, it greatly affected the way the Association was organized. This became especially true for our student members. During this process, the IAEM student representatives worked diligently to ensure that students received the maximum benefit. IAEM broke down the organization in to the following units:

- Councils: No smaller than a country, except the Student Council to comprise all students globally)
- Regions: Sub-units of Councils
- Chapters: Sub-units of Regions that can be geographical or university based
- Individual Member

All student members within the IAEM are automatically members of the IAEM Student Council as well as the Council in which they register. For example, a student studying at the University of Chicago is a member of both the IAEM Student Council (SC) and the USA Council. This gives students access to professionals in their area as well as fellow students.

Because the USA Council has approved a Student Region, that student is also automatically a member of the USA Student Region (USA-SR). This gives them intensive access to students localized in the United States. Not all Councils have Student Regions (currently USA and Oceania). Finally, because the University of Chicago has an approved Student Chapter, that student has the OPTION to join the local chapter to network and participate with emergency management students at their university. Not all Universities have chapters - and those that have





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them do not automatically enroll students. For students not a part of a student chapter, they are referred to as "unaffiliated students."

To sum up, our fictional student above is a member of the following:

- IAEM
- IAEM SC
- IAEM USA
- IAEM USA SC

While it does take a minute to understand the organizational structure, students within IAEM are uniquely placed to take advantage of multiple layers of professional development and networking not available to others within IAEM.

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### Hope for the Holidays

The Continuity e-GUIDE team

In our daily task of researching and writing about disaster preparedness and response, we understand the reality of preparing for the worst. However, we often remind ourselves that "the worst" is only a narrow slice of the world we live in. During this holiday season, we want to take time out to focus on a very different kind of 'emergency response.' There are people choosing to respond in ways that can inspire us all to ask "Are we doing enough? Could we make room for one more?"

We know some families in the Nashville area who have made room in their homes by adopting children from African orphanages. We wanted to find out more, and that's how we learned about Gwen and Suzanne.

They call themselves "two moms who love orphans" and met when they were both in the process of their first adoption. Today, between the two families they have 13 children. And together, Gwen and Suzanne founded 147millionorphans.com, a site dedicated to raising awareness of the millions of orphaned children worldwide.

Among their many initiatives, these two young American women produce T-shirts to help adoptive families generate the funds they need, help Ugandan women achieve a sustainable income from handmade necklaces, and partner with churches to help grow their ministries. And with every life they touch, the world becomes a better place.

Inspired by Gwen and Suzanne, we encourage everyone to look at the world through an alternate lens. There are many realities out there and infinite ways to make a difference (for starters, you'll find great ideas at [www.147millionorphans.com](http://www.147millionorphans.com))



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April 6 – 7, 2010

Greater Tacoma Convention & Trade  
Center; Tacoma, WA

The Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference is the largest and most successful regional emergency preparedness conference in the Pacific Northwest. Preparedness annually hosts nearly 700 people representing business, schools, government, the nonprofit sector, emergency management, professionals and volunteer organizations.

The Partners Conference attracts top-notch speakers with expertise that includes earthquake research, contingency planning, preparedness, technology, news media, and public health. Speakers and exhibitors provide cutting-edge information on subjects such as business continuity planning, school safety, public preparedness, homeland security and public information.

For more information, please contact Dana (Schlenker) Colwell, Conference Coordinator at: (253)445-4575 or [dana.colwell@wsu.edu](mailto:dana.colwell@wsu.edu).

Please note: Credit will be given towards AEM/CEM hours.

### Other Organizations to Check out:

AmeriCares

[www.americares.org](http://www.americares.org)

Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption

[www.davethomasfoundationforadoption.org](http://www.davethomasfoundationforadoption.org)

Feeding America

[www.feedingamerica.org](http://www.feedingamerica.org)

Habitat for Humanity

[www.habitat.org](http://www.habitat.org)

Humane Society of the United States

[www.hsus.org](http://www.hsus.org)

FEMA: Are you Ready?

[www.fema.gov/areyouready/](http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/)

Department of Homeland Security, Response & Recovery

[www.dhs.gov/xprepresp/](http://www.dhs.gov/xprepresp/)

American Red Cross

[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

Salvation Army

[www.salvationarmy.com](http://www.salvationarmy.com)

Canadian Centre for Emergency Preparedness

[www.ccep.ca](http://www.ccep.ca)

Federal Emergency Management Agency  
(FEMA) Training Resources

[www.training.fema.gov](http://www.training.fema.gov)

Citizen Corps

[www.citizencorps.gov/](http://www.citizencorps.gov/)



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