

ANNEX C

Warning

I. PURPOSE

This annex describes the system that provides reliable, timely, and effective warnings to the public at the onset and throughout a disaster.

To warn the public of any highly probable and/or immediate danger, thereby getting people to shelter as quickly as possible, and thus reducing the effects of a disaster upon the populace.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. Situation

1. Residents of East Baton Rouge Parish are often subjected to severe weather conditions, such as flash flooding, heavy rainfall, tornadoes, and hurricanes requiring the dissemination of warnings.
2. Accidents involving hazardous materials, such as chemical releases, transportation accidents, and train derailments can endanger the public. There is also a potential threat from enemy attack by radiological incidents.
3. The need to warn the public of impending danger could arise at any time. To reduce loss of lives, adequate and timely warnings must be provided. Appropriate action-oriented information, including medical information, must be supplied.

B. Assumptions

1. It is assumed that normal communications are not adequate to disseminate warnings and warning information to all cities, towns, communities, and to select key facilities and key officials.
2. It is assumed that service from the area warning point to cities, towns, communities, and to selected key officials will be limited in the most part to telephone and dispatched mobile radio units.
3. A warning period will be available for most emergency situations, although the amount of lead-time will vary from hazard to hazard. Proper use of this warning period will save lives, reduce injuries, and protect property.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. General

1. Natural Hazards

The most common warnings are those issued for severe weather. Other local hazards, which call for warnings, are floods and hurricanes.

2. Other Major Incidents

Warnings will be issued as a result of a hazardous material accident. Other events which might require public warning include conflagration and terrorism.

3. National Security Events

An enemy attack is possible at any time and could take the form of a nuclear, biochemical, or conventional incident. It is likely an attack would be preceded by a period of international tension. This would provide adequate time to prepare the public. It is possible; however, that warning time may be as little as fifteen minutes. An accidental weapons launch is also a possibility.

B. Phases of Emergency Management

1. Prevention

- a. Research warning systems to purchase that are adequate for notification of the population.
- b. Develop a public awareness program to be delivered to the public.

2. Mitigation

- a. A warning system utilizing all communication and warning resources available to the EOC is in use.
- b. A public awareness program regarding proper emergency information dissemination has been developed.

3. Preparedness

- a. The warning system, including sirens, will be tested on a regular basis.
- b. New personnel will be trained in the use of the warning system as needed.
- c. See Basic Plan for Emergency Condition/Action Levels.

- d. Emergency Condition Level/Action Levels are also used through MOHSEP's Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG). Watch, Warning, Impact, and Recovery are all clearly defined and each has specific procedures that MOHSEP follows regarding public notification.

4. Response

- a. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has the responsibility for disseminating warnings and warning information to the State of Louisiana over the National Warning System (NAWAS). This information will be received by the NAWAS warning point at GOHSEP post in Baton Rouge and will be broadcast over the State NAWAS network. The State will then relay warning information to the remaining emergency response agencies.
- b. The 9-1-1 Communications District is on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In the event of an emergency other than a hazardous materials incident, the Communications District is responsible for contacting all public safety officials. In the event of a hazardous material incident onsite, the Communications District of the East Baton Rouge Parish Fire Department is responsible for answering the Industrial Hotline Network and forwarding warning or alert messages to the 9-1-1 Communications Division.
- c. Warning and status information may also be received from GOHSEP headquarters via telephone or radio, from the U.S. Weather Bureau via telephone, teletype, facsimile, or from other emergency services such as other law enforcement agencies, weather watchers, fire departments, radio stations, Emergency Alert System (EAS), etc., via telephone or radio.

4. Recovery

The public will be informed through the use of the warning system as to when the crisis has passed.

C. Execution

- 1. When a warning or information is received, upon advice from the Director of MOHSEP or the Mayor-President, the Civil Defense warning sirens would be activated by Baton Rouge Fire Department Communications. The 19 sirens, along the industrial corridor, would be activated by the 9-1-1 Communications District Supervisor or the Baton Rouge Fire Department Hazardous Materials Division.
- 2. Mobile sirens would be augmented by all governmental vehicles equipped with sirens or loudspeakers, particularly in the Parish where there are no fixed sirens.

3. The Emergency Alert Station (EAS) (WJBO radio station) will provide additional warning and dissemination of informational advisories.

IV. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Organization

- ____1. The Communications Supervisor will supervise all activities in the Communications Center.
- ____2. The Director of MOHSEP will conduct the warning functions.
- ____3. Radio operators will man their assigned radios and properly transmit and receive messages.
- ____4. Rumor control monitors will check broadcasts for accuracy.
- ____5. Telephone operators are responsible for properly screening and routing of incoming calls.
- ____6. Law enforcement and fire personnel will provide mobile public address warning capabilities.

B. Responsibilities

1. MOHSEP

- ____a. The Director is responsible for developing and coordinating an adequate warning system.
- ____b. The Director, acting under the authority of the Mayor-President, is responsible for issuing all warnings.
- ____c. The Director is responsible for educating the public regarding the use of the warning system.
- ____d. Activate warning systems.
- ____e. Coordinate with Sheriff's Office, Fire Department, and Police Department for door-to-door warning, if necessary.

2. Law Enforcement

- ____a. Provide additional siren equipped mobile units where necessary to supplement sound coverage.
- ____b. Responsible for maintenance and repair of all its siren units.

- _____c. Provide mobile public address units, if necessary.
 - _____d. Provide manpower for door-to-door warning, if necessary.
3. Fire Department
- _____a. Provide additional siren equipped mobile units where necessary to supplement sound coverage.
 - _____b. Responsible for the maintenance and repair of all its siren units.
 - _____c. Provide manpower for door-to-door warning, if necessary.
4. East Baton Rouge Parish Council on Aging
- _____a. Assist with public warning of the non-institutionalized disabled and elderly either by telephone or door-to-door.
5. Schools
- _____a. The Superintendent of Schools will be notified of any warning and will, in turn, notify all other school officials and school locations.
6. Media and Broadcast
- _____a. Following notification by MOHSEP, the media is responsible for disseminating warning messages provided by authorized sources to the general public within their broadcast hours or publication time as rapidly as possible in the event of an impending or actual disaster.
 - _____b. Activation of the EAS is the responsibility of the local broadcasting media and MOHSEP.
 - _____c. The media will be requested to assist in an on-going public awareness program of lifesaving measures to be taken concerning all catastrophic events.

V. DIRECTION AND CONTROL

A. General

The warning process will be activated from the East Baton Rouge Parish 9-1-1 Communications District. Once the network is activated, the responsibility for its continued operation belongs to the Communications District. All warning activities will be coordinated through the EOC staff and the Emergency Communications Center staff.

B. Existing Warning System

1. National Warning System (NAWAS)

NAWAS is a nationwide dedicated telephone warning system located in key federal agencies and each state emergency operations center. NAWAS is used to disseminate both war and peacetime emergency information. The NAWAS telephone is located in the Baton Rouge Fire Communications Center.

2. National Weather Service (NWS)

The NWS will issue severe weather warnings over the NAWAS line.

3. School Warning System

Schools are notified by telephone from the Superintendent of Schools Office.

4. Emergency Alert System (EAS)

The EAS provides a means for supplying emergency information to the public. It uses commercial radio and television broadcast services, which are provided on a voluntary and organized basis. WJBO-AM radio station has been designated the area emergency broadcast station based upon a contractual agreement between the local station and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

5. Neighborhood Warning Procedures

In some instances, additional warning must be provided to certain areas. Methods used include vehicle mounted public address and door-to-door warning.

6. Telephone

The telephone is the primary means of providing warning to special locations such as schools, hospitals, nursing homes, major industries, institutions, and places of public assembly. At the present time, there is a dedicated phone line known as the "Media Hot Line" that has the capability of calling all participating media broadcasting stations at the same time. This phone can be activated from any touch-tone phone after dialing a pre-designated number. Additionally, an I-Notification system that utilizes the internet to notify participating area plants and government agencies of any situation involving area plants which may be cause for concern; such as an unusual odor, noise or life threatening situation. Users log on from a terminal on-site and notifications are transmitted to all users that are logged in.

7. Community Alert Network (CAL)

CAL is a community warning system that will contact citizens in an emergency and provide them with protective actions.

- a. 21st Century – Provides the capability to send personalized voice messages to thousands of people in minutes. In the event of local disruptions, such as floods, wildfires, water main breaks, or power outages, the capacity to send timely notifications to targeted constituents and staff members using a telephone capability allows leadership to remain intact.
- b. Sirens (loudspeakers) and alert monitors-A warning system comprised of nineteen solar-powered sirens and loudspeakers strategically located in the industrial corridor of East Baton Rouge Parish. The system has stored siren tones and pre-recorded messages to be used during an emergency. Forty-one alert monitors are located in area schools and hospitals and are capable of displaying text messages during an emergency. The sirens and alert monitors can be activated in any one of these ways: individually, specific group, or total system.

8. Emerg-Alert

This system will interrupt cable television programming. The Emerg-Alert Network provides the activating agency direct voice communications to the viewing public over the cable television system. The network is activated by phone and interrupts cable television programming while the message is being activated.

9. Special Needs Population Alerting Systems

- a. Interpreters are dispatched to the EOC for daily briefing.
- b. Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) and door to door public address are also utilized, as well as bilingual outlet channels.
- c. Media Outlet stations are embedded inside the EOC and broadcast live periodically throughout each day of an emergency.
- d. AM / FM Radio Stations are available to the EOC at all times.

VI. CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT

Each department according to the standard operating procedures has a continuity of operations plan and established lines of succession from each department head.

VII. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

- A. Communications and Warning Equipment and locations are included in Annex B, Appendix 2 and Annex C, Appendix 4.
- B. Measures for the protection and priority use of all communications and warning equipment may be found in Annex B of this plan.
- C. The Director of MOHSEP reserves the right to investigate any person(s) assigned to work in the EOC or in its support.
- D. Each agency or parish department assigning personnel to the EOC for warning purposes is responsible for their training in the use of the assigned equipment. The Director of MOHSEP or Communications Officer will provide additional training.

VIII. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

The MOHSEP Communications Officer will be responsible for assisting the Director of MOHSEP in the maintenance and improvement of this annex. He/she is also responsible for Standard Operating Guidelines relating to this annex.

IX. AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES

FEMA, Emergency Communications, CPG 1-9, 1977.

IX. APPENDICES TO ANNEX

- 1.) Organizational Chart
- 2.) Warning Flow Chart
- 3.) Accidental Launch Warning Actions
- 4.) Location of Civil Defense Sirens
- 5.) Location of Industrial Corridor Sirens
- 6.) School Monitor Locations
- 7.) Siren and School Monitor Messages