



CITY OF ANN ARBOR  
CITY CLERK  
REC'D

2009 AUG 13 AM 9: 53

July 31, 2009

Jacqueline Beaudry, Clerk  
City of Ann Arbor  
100 N. Fifth Ave., P.O. Box 8647  
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-

Re: Emergency Services

Dear Ms. Beaudry:

I am writing today to notify you of important changes that will affect your community's use of its Local Alert System.

In accordance with federal law, Comcast currently complies with its obligations to transmit emergency messages through our national Emergency Alert System (EAS). We also participate in the Michigan State Emergency Alert System (Michigan EAS). Additionally, in some Michigan cities and townships, we have historically provided a Local Alert System (LAS) capable of providing community-specific alerts and messaging.

While we are fully committed to both the federal and state Emergency Alert Systems, we will no longer be able to support LAS after September 15, 2009 for a number of reasons. First, the current Local Alert Systems operate on an analog platform and will not function on digital channels, which are an increasingly large portion of our channel lineup, due to customer demand for more digital services. In addition, with the evolution of alert system technology from an analog signal to a standardized digital signal, these analog-based systems, i.e. LAS, are no longer technologically sound investments for deploying effective emergency communications. In fact, an estimated 90 percent of Michigan television viewers don't have access to LAS, because they rely on digital signals. All viewers, regardless of how they watch TV, have the capacity to see EAS messages that are located on a common platform used by all providers.

Additionally, as you may know, Michigan's Uniform Video Services Local Franchise Act, 2006 PA 480, does not provide for local community emergency alerts in the new Uniform Franchise or for the continuation of such requirements in existing local franchises. Plus, Comcast is preparing for changes to federal and state EAS requirements (explained below) in conjunction with changes to digital technologies and customer equipment.

We do want to stress that the safety of our customers and your residents is of utmost importance to Comcast, and local emergency information carried by local broadcast stations is and will continue to be seen by Comcast customers through the federal and state EAS, demonstrating Comcast's commitment to fulfill its federal and State EAS obligations. As you do now, your community will still be able to provide important emergency announcements through coordination with the Michigan EAS. And, for less urgent messages, we recommend utilizing other available communication tools, such as your allotted public access channels, your community web site, broadcast television and radio and printed materials, which would reach all citizens – not just cable customers.

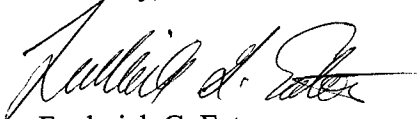
We would like to take this opportunity to ensure that you are provided with information concerning Michigan's EAS plan and process. Michigan EAS is intended to relay a brief message on radio, broadcast television and cable television, among others, concerning an emergency situation. If you are not already using the Michigan EAS, you should familiarize yourself with the plan and procedures at [http://www.michmab.com/eas/index\\_eas.html](http://www.michmab.com/eas/index_eas.html). For EAS purposes, Michigan is divided into eight geographic districts. The Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division of the Michigan State Police assign a District Coordinator to each district. For your convenience, we have attached the District map and contact information for the District Coordinators. In addition, we have attached emergency management contact information for each county. **Your EAS District Coordinator is Lt. Walter Davis, III, who can be contacted at 248-380-1055.**

In the event of a local emergency, your first point of contact should be your County Emergency Management designee, Mr. Marc C. Breckenridge, CEM, 737-973-4900. Each county designee is part of the state's District EAS. In addition, you, your county or the District Coordinator may have the option of utilizing EMnet to access the Michigan EAS. EMnet is an Internet- and satellite-based messaging system that can be used for issuing EAS alerts. You should contact your county emergency management contact or the Michigan EAS District Coordinator for further information on EMnet.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are currently working towards the "Next Generation EAS." FEMA plans to implement a new common EAS messaging protocol ("Common Alerting Protocol" or CAP 1.1) in the near future. The FCC has mandated that all EAS participants, including Comcast, must implement this protocol within 180 days following FEMA's public release of these standards. Once the CAP 1.1 standard is in place, Comcast must be in a position to receive and deliver state level EAS messages in accordance with the new standard. In addition, as the rules are currently drafted, the CAP 1.1 protocol should allow for the delivery of emergency messages to geographically targeted areas of the state, assuming the message is CAP formatted and properly approved. Comcast will carry out these advances in EAS standards and capability as they are released and implemented in the future.

Comcast is ready to assist you in making this transition to the Michigan EAS standard. In the interim, your local alert system will continue to function on analog channels received by our customers in your area until September 15, 2009. If you have any other questions or concerns, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Frederick G. Eaton  
Government Affairs Manager  
Comcast, Michigan Region

Cc: Ann Arbor City Disaster Prep  
Mr. Marc C. Breckenridge, CEM

Enclosure