



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND FIRE MARSHAL

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Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) For Cross-Border Emergency Alerting to the Public Between Rusk County, Texas, IPAWS Alerting Authority And Panola County, Texas, Non-Alerting Authority

Introduction

The jurisdictions of Rusk County, Texas, and Panola County, Texas recognize the need for interagency cooperation to enhance public alerting capabilities. This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) allows the jurisdictions to improve their ability to warn the public of emergencies promptly, where a multi-jurisdictional impact is likely.

Purpose

This MOU will allow emergency notifications to reach those affected by an incident and help eliminate duplicate or conflicting instructions. Each jurisdiction participating in this MOU can activate IPAWS in an emergency.

Scope

This MOU is effective as of 4/1/2024 and will continue until revoked by all parties following the procedures listed in section 7. The MOU may be used when there is an incident other than a weather event that has occurred in a respective jurisdiction, but which may impact an area outside of the incident jurisdiction and the incident may impact the outside jurisdiction.

Definitions

“FEMA” – Federal Emergency Management Agency

“IPAWS” – Integrated Public Alert and Warning System

“Memorandum of Understanding” or “MOU” – An agreement between two or more parties for the purpose of formalizing an agreed-upon process or procedure.

Policy

All parties agree that in the event of an emergency incident that meets the following criteria, the jurisdiction where the emergency originated can initiate an alert for any participating jurisdiction.

Incident Criteria:

- The event is not a weather emergency. Except for catastrophic flooding. (The National Weather Service will lead these incidents.)
- The incident will impact people outside of the incident jurisdiction.
- The incident's impact on people outside of the jurisdiction may be endangered if action is not taken by the public (such as evacuating or sheltering in place.)
- Each jurisdiction in the MOU may alert for areas of the following jurisdictions:
 - **Panola County – FIPS 48365**
- The IPAWS message is limited to the following event codes:
 - CDW (Civil Danger Warning)
 - CEM (Civil Emergency Message)
 - DMO (Practice / Demo Warning)
 - EVI (Evacuation Immediate)
 - FRW (Fire Warning)
 - HMW (Hazardous Materials Warning)
 - LAE (Local Area Emergency)
 - LEW (Law Enforcement Warning)
 - RHW (Radiological Hazard Warning)
 - RMT (Required Monthly Test)
 - RWT (Required Weekly Test)
 - SPW (Shelter In Place Warning)
 - TOE (911 Telephone Outage Emergency)

Alerts that cross into other jurisdictions will be limited to the geographic area impacted.

Procedures

The originating jurisdiction will use the following procedures:

1. Identify an incident that may impact neighboring jurisdictions.
2. Determine if that impact meets the policy of this MOU.
3. Decide which IPAWS dissemination channels are appropriate to use for message.
4. Compose an IPAWS message that includes the impacted other jurisdictions' geographic area.
5. Send the IPAWS message.
6. Contact impacted jurisdiction to provide detailed information on the incident.
7. Coordinate further alerts with all impacted jurisdictions.

The impacted jurisdiction will use the following procedures:

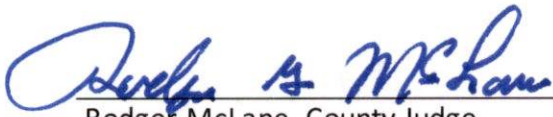
1. Monitor IPAWS feeds for all incidents or messages for the jurisdiction.
2. Coordinate with the originating jurisdiction for any ongoing alerts or follow-up messages.

Changes to Memorandum of Understanding

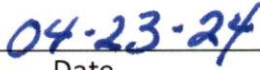
This MOU will be reviewed each year in January. The originating jurisdiction will notify each other party to the MOU that the MOU has been reviewed and notice of changes requested.

If changes are requested to this MOU, the requesting jurisdiction will submit the respective changes to all other parties. Each party will review and provide acceptance, modification, or rejection to the originating jurisdiction. Should all parties agree to the change(s), the originating jurisdiction will prepare a new version of the MOU for signature by all parties.

If a jurisdiction elects to revoke the MOU, the respective jurisdiction will notify all other parties of the MOU in writing with a 30-day notice. Each other party will notify their intent to remain a party to the MOU. The remaining parties can continue the MOU in areas that do not pertain to the jurisdiction that has left the MOU. The jurisdiction wishing to revoke the MOU will prepare a new version without their jurisdiction's participation for signature by the other parties. The MOU is fully revoked when there is only one or no party remaining. The State needs to be notified of any changes to the MOU including changes of participants. A completed copy of the MOU will be forwarded to the State and to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) IPAWS office so that permissions can be adjusted within IPAWS.



Rodger McLane, County Judge
Panola County, Texas



Date

Joel Hale, County Judge
Rusk County, Texas

Date