



## CHAPTER 122

# SOCIETY OF BROADCAST ENGINEERS

June 2007

*'Serving the Public through Quality Broadcast Engineering'*

### **Society of Broadcast Engineers releases statement opposing live code testing of EAS**

The Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE) announced its opposition to the use of real or live NWRSAME codes for system tests of the public warning system by National Weather Service (NWS)/NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) and some local authorities.

Alerts from the NWS, some local authorities and the Emergency Alert System (EAS) using real emergency event codes, when no actual emergency exists, have recently been used in some communities to test consumer receivers. The NWS is recommending the practice be expanded nationwide. While stated NWS policy establishes that approval for NWS live code testing is up to the state and local EAS committees, some committees are not being consulted or do not understand that they may decline the request. Local emergency officials also may not fully understand the implications of the request and may participate without realizing the serious negative results. The SBE asserts that these cry-wolf alerts will potentially cause public alarm, weaken confidence in the EAS for real alerts and discourage broadcaster's involvement with volunteer EAS programs.

Broadcasters and cable systems decode the EAS data and send the information directly to scrolling messages on TV screens and radios. One result of live -code tests would be that TV's viewed by the deaf and hard of hearing, and TVs in public places would not show any indication that the message is not a real alert. In addition, those receiving emergency messages through the Internet, PDAs, cell phones, programmable road signs, highway advisory radio, lottery terminals and shopping center marquee signs will not know the message was simply a test. The SBE says the negative effect of live -code testing outweighs the benefits of testing the public's weather alert radios.

SBE President Chriss Scherer, CPBE CBNT, said, "There is a national effort to update EAS and NWR data standards with a technology called Common Alerting Protocol (CAP). CAP will allow a visual scroll of the same information as in the audio message, and the SBE suggests that such a technology—when in common use—will be better suited to live-code tests."

The Society of Broadcast Engineers is the professional organization for radio and television engineers and those in related fields. SBE has more than 5,700 members in 112 chapters across the United States. SBE offers the largest and most recognized certification program for broadcast engineers, operators and technicians, with more than 5,000 certifications currently active.

### **Minutes of the May Meeting**

Minutes of the May Meeting 10-May-2007

There were 9 members and 1 guest in attendance.

Meeting called to order at 12:45 PM

President Mike Heim welcomed guest Chris Carpenter of Flash Technologies who provided lunch and a presentation. Wes Boyd accepted the minutes for last month's meeting and John Clark seconded.

Treasurer's report was given by Mike Orto.

Committee Reports: Certification: none

Frequency Coordination: none.

No old Business.

New Business: NAB Road show will be here on Aug 14th 2007 @ CC building. John Clark outlined EAS modifications where alerts will be taken from EMNET.

Bill King motioned to adjourn and Wes Boyd seconded.

Meeting ended at 12:58PM and the forum was turned over to Chris Carpenter.

## Certification Schedule

Exam Dates	Location	Application Deadline
August 10-20, 2007	Local Chapters	June 8, 2007
November 9-19, 2007	Local Chapters	September 21, 2007

## Monthly Meeting

The June meeting will take place at noon on June 14. We will meet at the Youngstown Sports Grille on South Avenue in Boardman. Anyone with an interest in broadcast engineering are welcome to attend our meetings. The meeting gathers around noon and the business meeting begins just after we order lunch. Some meetings have a program scheduled. If you wish to do a presentation contact one of the officers, and you will be scheduled. We would like to know at least 2 weeks in advance so it can be published in the newsletter.

## Chapter Officers for 2007

President Mike Heim 330-729-2568  
 V. President Tom Zoccolo 330-782-1144  
 Treasurer Mike Orto 330-207-3881  
 Financial Sec Bob Flis 330-744-8611  
 Secretary Melissa Limpose 330-729-2589

### Frequency coordinators:

Under 1 GHz Wes Boyd 330-783-1000  
 Over 1 GHz Bob Flis 330-744-8611  
 Certification Jim Hartzler 330-542-9345  
 Newsletter Editor Mike Heim 330-729-2568  
 SBE Chapter Website: [www.sbe122.org](http://www.sbe122.org)



## EAS Test Schedule



### Ohio:

June  
 6/6 6:00AM RWT  
**6.13 4:50AM RMT**  
 6/19 1:00PM RWT  
 6/28 9:15PM RWT

July  
 7/2 1:00PM RWT  
**7/11 9:50AM RMT (Exact Time)**  
 7/19 10:15PM RWT  
 7/26 11:00AM RWT

**The LP1 in Ohio (Trumbull, Mahoning and Columbiana Counties is WMXY (98.9). The LP2 is WYSU (88.5)**

### Pennsylvania:

Monthly Test Dates only

June 21 4:50AM  
 July 19 10:15AM

**The PA (Lawrence and Mercer Counties) LP1 is WWGY (95.1) and the LP2 is WAKZ (95.9)**