



# Youngstown Area EAS Test Schedule

Both the Ohio AND Western Pennsylvania schedules are posted: [WWW.SBE122.US](http://WWW.SBE122.US)

**The 2023 regional information on EAS testing schedules will soon be available, and posted on our website ASAP.**

From: Broadcasters' Desktop Resource



by Barry Mishkind

## FCC SERVERS ARE STILL AN ISSUE

We are hearing reports that server access is improving, but the FCC has again adjusted the deadline for the Q4 I&P upload to February 28th. Best access seems to be early in the morning and later at night.

## RAY TOPP PASSES AWAY

We are saddened to report Ray Topp passed away suddenly early in January. Ray was a station owner from Minnesota who transitioned to print for the past 40 years, starting with the Rochester Radio Guide and leading to the Radio Shopper. Ray asked me to be his Editor in 2002, and we had a good time revamping Radio Guide Magazine together, even eventually sponsoring the Radio Guide AM Transmission Seminar as a way to extend the format of bringing needed information to the folks in the field. The BDR is an outgrowth of our years at Radio Guide, and is a constant "tip of the hat" to Ray's pioneering. Ray's passing will be noticed by many, as Radio Guide has ceased publication.

**1/27/23** - The FCC today announced that the server problems continue to cause delays and have [extended the date for filing](#) the Issues & Programs filing for Q4-2022, and some other filings to February 28th.

**1/16/23 - According to the FCC's year-end count, 25 AM licensees turned off the power and turned in their licenses during 2022, leaving 4,484 AM stations left in the US.**

**Additionally 54 LPFM's gave up and turned in their licenses.**

**There were 13 more full power FM's on 12/31/22, compared to 12/31/21 and 84 new translators and boosters last year.**

**For those keeping score:**

**AM:4,484**

**FM: 6,686**

**NCEFM: 4,207**

**Translators and boosters: 8,950**

**LPFM: 2,015**

**1/16/23 - Broadcasters may have a new tool to fight lightning strikes on towers. A Swiss demonstration with a high-powered laser managed to divert lightning from hitting a 400-foot tower during the 2021 storm season.**

**The test in Switzerland created a "virtual" lightning rod by pulsing a thousand times a second to heat the air around the tower.**

**With 40 millions lightning strikes in the US causing some \$3 Billion in damages each year to towers and antennas, something like this could be a valuable solution for lightning strikes.**

**1/12/23 - The NAB, NPR, Beasley, and Cox Media are among filers fully supporting Xperi's petition to the FCC to increase HD Radio digital levels. The thrust of the NPRM to which comments were made is to allow stations to use assymetric sidebands and hight power for better signal penetration. General concensus is that this is a good move, although there are some reports it can have an adverse impact on low power stations and translators, including LPFM's. Reply Comments are due February 13th for Docket 22-405 and can be made online on the ECFS page.**

**1/9/23 - For the second week in a row, the regular Monday test from the FEMA on IPAW CAP did not happen normally.**

**Last week only some areas got the test.**

**This week no one did; the word from the FEMA is the tests "were not properly sent." If you do log the FEMA tests, this is the explanation to enter in the log: "Failed Test - per FEMA notification."**

# FCC Enforcement

**1/26/23 - Someone at Fox thought it was cute to use EAS tones in a promotional piece on 11/28/22.**

**The FCC, on the other hand, viewed it rather differently, using Section 11.45 and issuing an NALF for \$504k to Fox Corporation and its stations - 18 O&Os (the tones also ran on 190 Fox Sports Radio affiliates, some iHeart stations, and SiriusXM satellite radio.**

**The Commission noted the "overall effect of falsely warning listeners and viewers of a non-existent emergency, as the EAS Tones were clearly audible, cognizable, and appropriated for a non-emergency use. This manner of appropriation of the EAS Tones is exactly the type of simulation that the Commission's rules seek to address and prohibit in order to avoid diluting the EAS Tones' real meaning over time."**

**The Commission also noted that Fox did not report the false alert tones. All in all, the EB multiplied the fine up from \$8k by 18 to get \$144k, and then increased it 3.5 times to \$504k to ensure Fox got the message that the FCC is not tolerating misuses of the EAS tones. All stations should take the time to ensure staff knows at least this part of the FCC Rules!**

**12/28/22 - For the second time in two weeks (see 12/7/22, below, the FCC has issued paperwork regarding the markeing of unauthorized transmission devices - illegal FM transmitters - in the US.**

**Broadcast Supply Worldwide was cited for selling the Rolls HR70 FM Broadcast Transmitter (HR70), the Decade MS-100, MS-100M, and MS-100S in violation of the Rules. BSW immediately complied and stopped the sale of the units.**

## The Virtual Lunch Gathering!

Each Thursday at 2 PM Eastern, 11 AM Pacific, we get together to discuss topics of interest to broadcasters and learn things.

The meeting is held using Zoom to prevent Zoombombing the URL is not published on the web.

**Broadcasters Are Invited, (Go to Barry's site) To Get An Invite.**

Recordings of the meetings are usually posted a day or so afterward.

At this time, they are being posted at Youtube on [theBDRnet channel](#).

(So you can leave the local SBE 122 meeting, and then check into Barry's meeting for the latest info.)

Thanks to Barry and the BDR, a great source for the latest news of the industry. [A weekly e-mail report, and FREE !](#)

## **2023 Elected Officers and Committees**

**President:** Robert Flis WFMJ TV  
**Vice President:** Wes Boyd Retired/ Semi Homeless, and happy !  
**Treasurer:** Mike Orto WYSU / Youngstown State Univ.  
**Secretary :** John Clarke iHeart Media Youngstown  
**Financial Manager:** Melissa Rogers WYSU 88.5 FM Youngstown State Univ.  
**Certification:** Wes Boyd  
**Frequency Co-ordination:**  
**1 Ghz and UP** Robert Flis Under 1 Ghz Wes Boyd  
**Newsletter:** Wes Boyd

The FCC has extended the filling date for the EAS Test Reporting System (ETRS) form one to February 28, 2023. This is required to be filed annually, but due to delays in testing the National EAS via a National Periodic Test (NPT) in 2022, the Commission moved the 2022 filing to the new date. The delay was due to continuing Covid-19 issues.

Federal Emergency Management Agency has not yet posted a date for the next national test, but unofficial comments indicate the NPT may occur during the first part of 2023.

The extension will also enable the FCC to implement certain technical improvements to ETRS before opening it for filing. The FCC plans to open ETRS for Form One filings on January 3, 2023 and will provide details by future Public Notice.

As a reminder, the EAS Test Reporting System is an online filing system by which EAS participants submit information regarding their performance on nationwide tests of the EAS that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Commission conduct regularly to assess the reliability and effectiveness of the nation's alert and warning infrastructure.

As most engineers are aware, the FCC has begun reviewing the required updated EAS State Plans from each state. These plans were required to be uploaded to a special EAS template on the Commission website. Engineers need to stay in close touch with the State Emergency Communication Committee (SECC) in your state about any changes in the required EAS monitoring assignments.

The Commission is requiring SECC's to develop redundant sources for the reception and relay of National level alerts (EAN). These redundant sources will act as a backup to the Primary Entry Point (PEP) source in your state. The recommended sources are the National Public Radio squawk channel NPR-1 and the barker channel 1 on Sirius XM.

Several SECC's are adding these two sources to any state relay networks used and other key local primaries around their states. Stations affiliated with National Public Radio are encouraged to add (if possible) NPR-1 as a source to their EAS decoders.

For added redundancy, stations can also add a SiriusXM radio monitoring the free barker channel to the EAS decoder. If you add either of these sources at your stations, make should to send information the SECC.

Another requirement is for stations to ensure the security of the EAS device. This includes installing the most recent software updates, password management, and maintaining the EAS devices behind a secure firewall.

Contact your State Emergency Communications Committee or State Broadcasters Association for additional information.



## SBE Certification: Local Chapters

January 6, 2023 (past), April 21, 2023,  
June 16, 2023, September 8, 2023

When you are ready to take an SBE exam, please fill out the appropriate [application](#) and send it into the SBE National office (see address below). You will be notified once your application has been approved. Approximately 3 weeks before the exam time, your local certification chairman will receive a list of applicants in his/her area. He/she will then contact those applicants to schedule a date, time and place for the exams. The exams will be mailed back to the National office for grading. The pass/fail grades will then be mailed directly to the applicants.

You may mail, email or fax your applications to:

Megan E. Clappe  
Certification Director  
9102 N. Meridian St. Suite 150  
Indianapolis, IN 46260  
317-846-9120 Fax  
[mclappe@sbe.org](mailto:mclappe@sbe.org)

**Don't forget to check out the SBE website. [WWW.SBE.ORG](http://WWW.SBE.ORG)**

**EAST PALESTINE, Ohio (WKBN) – As officials continue to try to lower the risks from a train derailment and fire in East Palestine, there are still questions as to what caused it. (late afternoon Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>)**

In a press conference Sunday, the **National Transportation Safety Board** shared what it believes to be the cause. “We have obtained two videos which show pulmonary indications of mechanical issues on one of the railcar axles,” said National Transportation Safety Board member Michael Graham.

Graham says the train did drive through one of these detectors shortly before the derailment.

“The crew did receive a wayside defect detector, shortly before the derailment indicating a mechanical issue. Then an emergency break application was initiated,” Graham said.

This is known as a hot box, which is a term used for when a wheel bearing overheats on a railcar. In this case, the overheating led to a fire which then led to the derailment.

Former State Rep Bob Hagan retired in 2021 after 50 years in the railroad industry. He says there are hot box detectors that alert conductors to stop the train.

“We have, now, technology that can interpret any time a wheel is hot through that, and it would go via the radio where the engineer would be running the train, the conductor of course would be sitting next to them,” Hagan said.



