

**UPDATE**  
**August 9, 2022**

**FCC and FEMA Urge All Emergency Alert System Participants, including MVPDs,  
to Take Immediate Steps to Secure EAS Equipment**

On August 5, 2022, the FCC's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau ("PSHSB") released a [Public Notice](#) advising all Emergency Alert System ("EAS") Participants, including multichannel video programming distributors, to secure their EAS equipment against risks impacting devices that are publicly accessible from the Internet. The FCC's Public Notice follows an earlier FEMA advisory on a potential vulnerability in certain EAS encoder/decoder devices that have not been updated to most recent software versions.

EAS Participants **must ensure that their EAS equipment's monitoring and transmitting functions are available whenever the stations and systems are operating.** The PSHSB has previously warned EAS Participants about this vulnerability and encouraged EAS Participants to secure their equipment by installing current security patches and using firewalls. The PSHSB again urges all EAS Participants, regardless of the make and model of their EAS equipment, to upgrade their equipment software and firmware to the most recent versions and secure their equipment behind a properly configured firewall as soon as possible.

In addition, all EAS Participants are encouraged to take the following steps:

- Install software security patches issued by the manufacturer as soon as they become available.
- Change default passwords.
- Continually monitor EAS equipment and Software and review audit logs to detect and report incidents of unauthorized access.
- Review the list of recommended best practices to address potential data security vulnerabilities issued by the CSRIC Council in 2014.

Under FCC rules, EAS Participants that fail to receive or transmit EAS messages during national tests or actual emergencies because of an equipment failure may be subject to enforcement action.

If you have questions about EAS, please contact Scott Friedman at (314) 462-9000 or [sfriedman@cinnamonmueller.com](mailto:sfriedman@cinnamonmueller.com) or Bruce Beard at (314) 394-1535 or [bbeard@cinnamonmueller.com](mailto:bbeard@cinnamonmueller.com).

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