

6. Public Information

All information released to the public regarding a hazardous materials incident will be coordinated through the IC. Ideally, the IC will have appointed a Public Information Officer (PIO) to coordinate the dissemination of information to the public.

The IC or PIO will determine the type of information to be released to the public, typically through a press release or a press conference. Examples of information to be released may include the following:

- Nature of the incident
- Date and time of the incident
- Approximate location where the incident occurred
- Precautions for the public and possible symptoms of exposure if the incident is high hazard
- Telephone number and internet address for public inquiries
- Traffic patterns affected by the incident
- Number of injuries and property damage
- Product name and normal uses
- Response agencies involved
- Mitigation efforts underway
- Any instructions with regard to evacuation or shelter in place, if the incident is high hazard
- Mass care information if high hazard

A list of media outlets (including radio, television, and newspaper) is provided in Appendix E.

In the event of a significant incident, the Nevada Emergency Alert System (EAS) may be activated. The EAS has been in place since January of 1997. It is a voluntary program that is fully funded by local radio and television stations. Law enforcement and public safety officials can use EAS to quickly provide lifesaving information to the public at no taxpayer expense. The Mayor, County Commission Chair, County Manager, County Emergency Management Manager, County Public Information Officer, or the County Special Projects Manager of the impacted community can authorize activation of the EAS. The Governor, the Director of the Nevada Department of Public Safety, the Division Chief of NDEM or the National Weather Service, can also authorize activation of the EAS. Activation is facilitated with a call to one of the authorized activating agencies listed above who will then request EAS activation and provide messages for transmission.

In the event of a disaster, upon request of the Governor's Office and in conjunction with NDEM, a Joint Information Center (JIC) will be established at the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). The JIC will coordinate information releases with the IC.