

**What is IPAWS?(Preparedness Committee, Steve Napack)**

What was that Presidential Alert on October 3 all about? Will all these alerts be from the President?

It was a test of IPAWS- Integrated Public Alert Warning System created by FEMA. This system ties together all forms of public communication: radio, TV, cell phones, even highway warning signs so that public safety officials can get warnings out to the segment of the public that need to be alerted.

The alerts to cell phones are called **WEAS**- Wireless Emergency Alert System. Most alerts will actually come from **NWS**-National Weather Service, as most serious threats to the public are from the weather.

The system can also be used by state and local public safety officials.

It would be extremely rare that the alert would need to be nation-wide, from the President. This test, though, exercised the entire system from nation-wide down to local and to you.

We in Benton County also have our own emergency alert system: the **Linn-Benton Alert**. You should have received a black card describing how to sign up for this system. Our Benton County Emergency Services Manager will activate this system if there is a local threat.