

Vermont Association of Broadcasters  
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## The VAB Voice



### FCC FEES DUE SEPT 14

Regulatory fees for all TV and Radio stations are due by 11:59 P.M. on Wednesday, September 14. This year, all fees must be filed electronically at the FCC fee filer website. You'll need to enter your FCC Registration Number (FRN) and password. You can also sign up for an FRN at the site. The FCC expects to collect more than 330 million dollars in fees this year. Keep in mind that fees filed late will be assessed a 25 percent penalty.

#### ED ANDERSON 1942—2011

Our condolences go out to the friends and family of longtime Rutland-area radio personality Ed Anderson, who passed away earlier this summer at the age of 69.

Edwin H. Anderson was born and raised in New Bedford, Massachusetts. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War and a member of American Legion Post #31 in Rutland. He was an announcer and talk show host for many years for WSYB-AM. Donations in his memory may be made to Rutland County Humane Society, Stevens Road, Pittsford, VT 05763 or to Rutland Area Visiting Nurse-Hospice, PO Box 787, Pittsford, VT 05763.

September, 2011

## VT TV & RADIO ON TOP OF IRENE INFO

Vermont broadcasters large and small rose to the occasion once again by providing critical, life-saving information as Tropical Storm Irene bore down on the state.

The Sunday, August 28 storm claimed at least four lives, destroyed at least 25 bridges and made countless roads impassable in the state. Southern Vermont was especially hard-hit, but all regions were affected.

"There's no question the thorough coverage of the storm by our state's broadcasters helped save lives," said VAB Executive Director Jim Condon. "What was a catastrophic situation could've been even worse."

Radio and TV stations were able to quickly disseminate information from state and local emergency officials, including information about evacuations, road closings, shelter locations and school and business closings.



SOURCE: NOAA

Up to 50,000 Vermont homes were without power, and many relied on battery-powered radio and TV sets to get the latest local news updates.

The response by Vermont broadcasters demonstrates once again the importance of supporting local radio and television stations. Another thing is certain: our local stations will continue to provide timely and important information as the cleanup from Hurricane Irene continues for months to come.

### AS CELLPHONES FAIL, BROADCASTING DELIVERS EARTHQUAKE NEWS

Although FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski has a soft spot for cellphones, the devices recently showed why they're unreliable as protectors of the public safety.



When an earthquake measuring 5.8 on the Richter Scale occurred near Mineral, Virginia August 23, it was felt up and down the East Coast. Radio and television stations swung into action, relaying the latest news and information about the rare quake.

But those who that's why it's really important relied on their with your local broadcasters - cellphones to that they are going to have, get information often times, the most detailed were out of information about what's happening in your community." luck. The cell

traffic strangled the system. Cell companies, of course, FEMA chief Craig Fugate told said the failure showed the need to take spectrum from CNN, "A lot of people look to broadcasters. However, no answers - about what impacts amount of new spectrum will you could have - and what resolve the traffic jams that you need to do in your communities - are going to come happen during widespread emergencies. It's time for the from your local officials. And FCC to rethink its position.

- Jim Condon



David Oxenford

## UPDATES ON EAS/CAP AND THE NATIONAL EAS TEST

There has been much focus on emergency communications recently, with the East Coast earthquake re-igniting the debate over FM-enabled mobile phones, and with Hurricane Irene forcing stations to gear up for emergency coverage. But even without these unusual events, the emergency communications world has been much in the news, given the current requirement for broadcast stations to be ready for the new Common Alerting Protocol ("CAP"), an Internet-based alerting system, by the end of September, and with the first-ever test of the National EAS system scheduled for November. The CAP conversion date has recently been the subject of debate in a number of FCC filings - and there seems like a good chance that the September 30 deadline will be delayed - if for no other reason than the fact that the FCC has yet to adopt final rules for the equipment required for such compliance. The National Test, however, should go on as scheduled.

There are two notable events coming for the EAS system. The first is the conversion to CAP, delayed last year until September 30 of this year. However, the FCC is still considering specific rules governing the CAP system. Because there are no rules, a number of broadcast groups (including the VAB) have asked for a 180 day extension of the deadline. Even FEMA has suggested that the FCC not penalize until early next year any station that is not fully CAP compliant. Only some equipment manufacturers have suggested that the September deadline be kept in place. We would look for some word from the FCC soon, and if we would have to bet, we'd expect to see some extension of the deadline in the cards (though one never knows for sure...)

The first nationwide test of the EAS system is also on the horizon - scheduled for November 9 (at 2 P.M. EST). This is not a test of the CAP system, but will use the traditional "daisy chain" alert that is passed from one station to another (a system that will remain in place after CAP implementation to provide redundancy in the system). The FCC just published more information about this test. Many states will be testing their systems before the nationwide test to ensure that systems are fully operational. Check your station's facilities now, as there will be a post-test report filed with the FCC by all stations, and you don't want to be a station that has to report that an avoidable problem made your station miss the test. - *David Oxenford*

### VAB HALL OF FAME

### NOMINATIONS DUE BY SEPT. 30

Nominations are now being accepted for the VAB Hall of Fame and our other prestigious annual awards. Visit our homepage at [www.vab.org](http://www.vab.org) to make nominations for the following awards:

- VAB HALL OF FAME**
- BROADCASTER OF THE YEAR**
- DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**
- COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS**

Our annual awards banquet will be held **Nov. 19, 2011** at the Burlington Hilton Hotel. Full details coming soon!



IF YOU PURCHASE A NEW CAP-READY EAS UNIT FOR YOUR STATION YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR A CASH REBATE FROM THE VAB OF UP TO

**\$1000**

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE VAB EAS REBATE PROGRAM AND PROGRAM DEADLINES AT [WWW.VAB.ORG](http://WWW.VAB.ORG)

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