

Ellicott City Public Alert System

Temporary Solution





An Overview

- ▶ Why did we choose this solution?
 - ▶ The Federal Emergency Management Agency [FEMA] recommends that communities determine the alert and notification methods that best meet their individual needs.
 - ▶ Flash Flooding evolves quickly.
 - ▶ High volume of pedestrian traffic in the hazard area.
 - ▶ Best Practice for short-notice alerts
 - ▶ The most effective way to alert a large number of people in the shortest possible time in an outdoor environment. (FEMA)

An Overview

- ▶ Why did we chose this solution? (cont.)
 - ▶ Done in concert with public safety entities
 - ▶ OEM was asked by the County Executive to have a temporary solution in place by this coming storm season.
 - ▶ This is part of a larger concept of all-hazards, all-community alerting
 - ▶ IPAWS
 - ▶ EAS
 - ▶ NOAA Weather Radios



FEMA

An Overview

- ▶ Public Education and Awareness
 - ▶ Signage
 - ▶ Education Materials
 - ▶ VMS Boards



Guidance

- ▶ Two pieces of federal guidance that assisted with product and project direction



Outdoor Warning Systems

Technical Bulletin (Version 2.0)

January 12, 2006



System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER)

Outdoor Warning Sirens Market Survey Report

March 2015



Prepared by Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center Atlantic

Temporary Units

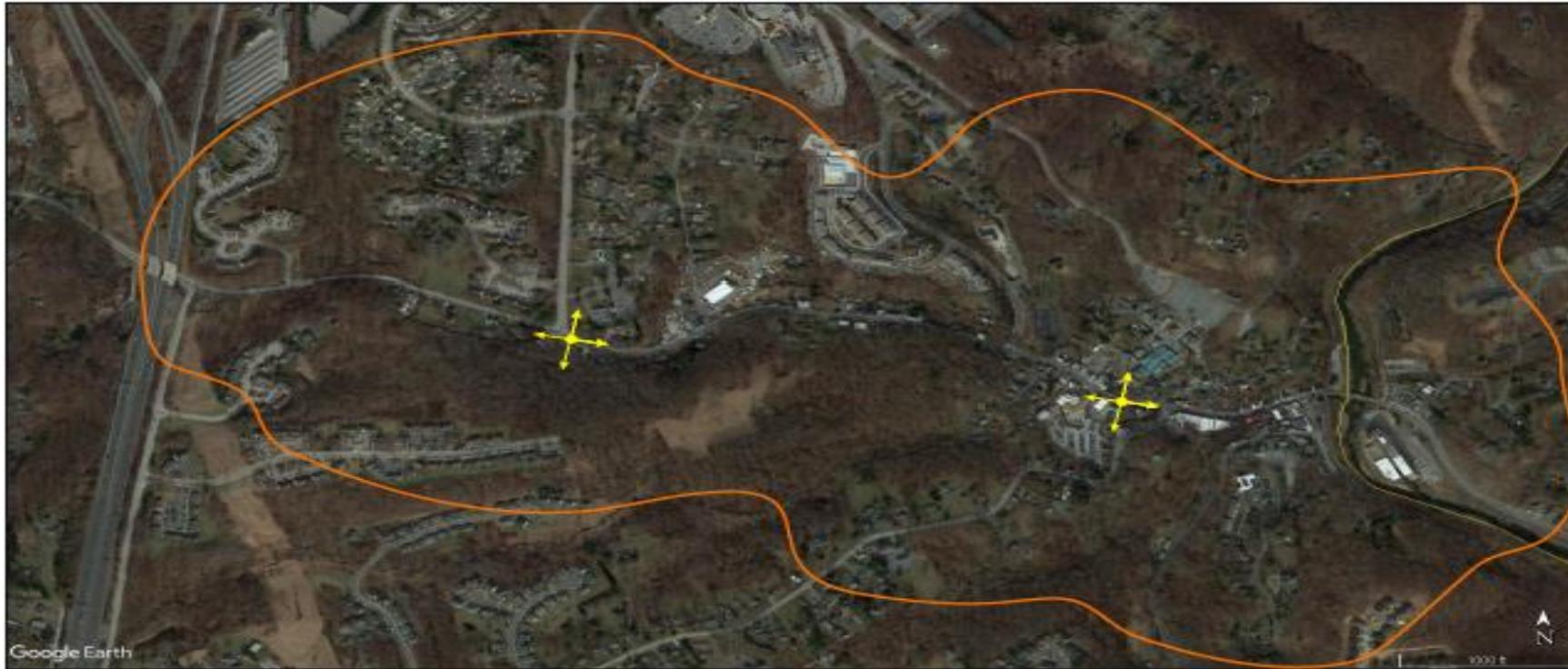
- ▶ OEM made its selection based on several criteria.
 - ▶ The units selected were the most cost effective and met our delivery timeline
- ▶ What are they?
 - ▶ They are two mobile, trailer-based platforms with speaker arrays placed atop a 30' mast.
- ▶ What do they do?
 - ▶ They produce a 120db tone at 100ft away (speaker level/height).
 - ▶ An Alert will be initiated by either Howard County public safety professionals or by the NWS through a Flash Flood Warning.





Acoustic Maps

- ▶ How far does the tone travel?
- ▶ The units produce a tone that will reach a specific area to the standard 70db sound level (FEMA).
- ▶ Site confirmation and other testing will be complete in March and April.



Google Earth

**Map 1 Preliminary Movable Acoustic Coverage
Ellicott City, MD**

Legend

-  THPSS (1600W)
Portable Sirens (2)
-  Approximate 70 dBC
Tone Contour



Graphic Scale in Feet N1



- Proprietary ATI Systems February 5, 2019
1. THE ACOUSTIC COVERAGE ANALYSIS IS BASED ON THE INFORMATION PROVIDED TO ATI BY DATE. THE ACTUAL FIELD COVERAGE ANALYSIS MAY VARY DEPENDING ON ADDITIONAL SITE SPECIFIC INFORMATION. THIS MAY RESULT IN THE PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL UNITS.
 2. THE ACOUSTIC COVERAGE IS GENERAL. SHADOW ZONES MAY BE GENERATED BY STRUCTURES, WHICH MAY INTERFERE WITH COVERAGE.
 3. PLEASE DO NOT DEPEND ON THE ACOUSTIC COVERAGE ANALYSIS TO ANY THIRD PARTY WITHOUT ATI'S AUTHORIZATION.
 4. BASE MAP OBTAINED FROM GOOGLE EARTH.



What am I supposed to do if it goes off?

- ▶ If you hear the alert, immediately survey your surroundings and safely move to the highest possible area. This could be:
 - ▶ higher elevations;
 - ▶ away from the street; or
 - ▶ elevated floors of a building, if absolutely necessary.
- ▶ Tones go off, go up.



We need your input!

- ▶ There are several alert tones that are currently under consideration.
 - ▶ Take a listen!
 - ▶ You can sample these tones again and vote for your choice on the Safe and Sound website
- ▶ Regular Scheduled Testing
 - ▶ The units will require periodic testing.
 - ▶ Provide your input on the day of the week and time of day for testing?
 - ▶ Email ECsafeandsound@howardcountymd.gov



Comments and Questions