APPENDIX C: ATTACK PROCEDURES

The following material is taken from pages F-1 and F-2 of *National Weather Service Instruction 10-1710,* "Operations and Services Dissemination Policy NWSPD 10-17," dated 1 October 2002:

> **Non-Weather-Related National or Regional Emergencies**
> Use these rules to disseminate messages from authorized government agencies for non-weather related hazards affecting the Nation or large regions of the country normally consisting of several states or territories. These would include, but are not limited to, nuclear attack, earthquakes, terrorist attack, etc. The details of the rules outlined here will be amended occasionally by replacing this appendix to account for changes in NWS communications systems as the NWR system matures, and as new NWR-SAME and EAS codes are developed. The basic concept, however, should not be affected by these changes.
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> 1. Initial Dissemination.
> a. Following a 7-second ring on NAWAS,[282] the National Warning Center or its authorized alternate will announce the title of the WARNING message.
> b. The regional warning centers or other authorized alternate emergency operation centers (that normally operate in these situations) acknowledge the National Warning Center. The state warning points then acknowledge.

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[282] "The National Warning System (NAWAS) is a communications system originally designed and implemented in the 1950s as a means of notifying and preparing for a nuclear attack. Fortunately the system was never used for its intended purpose, but has proven invaluable to local emergency managers responding to or coping with natural disasters.

"The National Warning System supports the nonmilitary actions taken by Federal agencies, by the private sector, and by individual citizens to meet essential human needs; to support the military effort; to ensure continuity of Federal authority at national and regional levels; and to ensure survival as a free and independent nation under all emergency conditions, including a national emergency caused by threatened or actual attack on the United States.

"The National Warning System has major terminals at each State EOC and State Emergency Management Facility. Today, the system consists of what is effectively a 2200+ telephone party line." Federation of American Scientists. "National Warning System (NAWAS)." 29 April 1998. 17 Nov. 2002 <http://www.fas.org/nuke/guide/usa/c3i/nawas.htm>.

The state warning points will then request acknowledgment from locations on the state warning circuits (including NWS locations). (Note for FEMA staff reading this directive: "Activate the warning signal" means to transmit the appropriate NWRSAME/EAS code and the 1050 Hz warning alarm tone to activate NWR receivers.)

c. NWS offices will prepare the appropriate message for dissemination. If the message is:

1. NUCLEAR ATTACK: Get the red-bordered envelope containing the approved text for this specific hazard. The text of the message on this card may be prerecorded and stored on a diskette with the diskette sealed along with the card in the red-bordered envelope. THE TEXT OF THIS MESSAGE, HOWEVER, SHALL, UNDER NO CONDITIONS, BE RECORDED AND STORED AS A FILE ON THE NWR SYSTEM OR ANY OTHER ON-LINE NWR MESSAGING SYSTEM BEFORE ITS ACTUAL USE IN A REAL EVENT. DO NOT leave the envelope out in the open. The NWS must eliminate the possibility of a false or accidental ATTACK WARNING.
2. OTHER NON-WEATHER NATIONAL/REGIONAL HAZARDS: Get the text of the message by either transcribing or recording it from the NAWAS. If you get the message from another authorized source, such as AWIPS or fax, use the state or nationally established method of confirmation.

d. Until updated with a more specific event code, select the NWRSAME/ EAS code for Civil Emergency Message (CEM) to disseminate these messages along with ALL the appropriate geographic codes available on the NWR system (or NWR-SAME panel if it is being used in backup mode). Suspend all normal broadcast operations and trigger the NWR to send the event code followed by the 1050 Hz public warning alarm tone. At the conclusion of the 1050 Hz warning alarm tone, immediately begin READING THE MESSAGE EXACTLY AS WRITTEN.

e. Read the message live and record it. An alternative is to play the message from the prerecorded diskette. Following transmission of the NWRSAME/EAS End-Of-Message, immediately program the NWR for this message and a short station identification to play indefinitely until manually replaced with another message. If the WFO will be evacuated, broadcast a recurring short message informing listeners that the WFO will not provide any service until further notice. Do NOT mention that the office has been evacuated.