



The

Broadcasters' Desktop Resource

www.theBDR.net

... edited by Barry Mishkind – the Eclectic Engineer

Broadcast Operations

Lake Region Radio Choses DASDEC II



by Curt Teigen

[October 2011] Most stations have lived with an EAS receiver selected nearly 15 years ago. Obviously selecting the next generation unit for use should be done carefully, to get the best unit for the stations needs. In Devils Lake, North Dakota, Curt Teigen chose DASDEC.

Several months ago, Lake Region Radio Works undertook to upgrade our four-station EAS system and network, which was sorely in need.

We had the option of going the cheap route and retrofitting our current EAS unit as part of the plan, but after some in-depth research by my IT director and engineering manager, Jeremy Eisenzimmer, we chose to go with the DASDEC II emergency messaging platform from Digital Alert Systems.



I am glad we did just that. The DASDEC II has finally taken our EAS system where I have always wanted it to be – and more importantly where it is supposed to be.

DECIDING ON THE RIGHT PRODUCT

While we did need to be prepared for the move to CAP messaging, the need for a more reliable EAS system had become the most pressing issue.

Lake Region Radio Works is a North Dakota radio station cluster comprising KZZY, KQZZ, KDLR, and KDVL. It is owned principally by residents of the surrounding Devils Lake region and is operated under Double Z Broadcasting.

In considering a new system, we took the opportunity to look at new technologies on the market, and we narrowed the field to just two vendors. Of the two companies, Digital Alert Systems – was the most responsive in answering our questions, demonstrating the functionality of its EAS platform, and helping us to determine how the new system would fit into our operations.

The company's proactive approach made it clear that we would be able to count on it for support, day or night.

DASDEC II

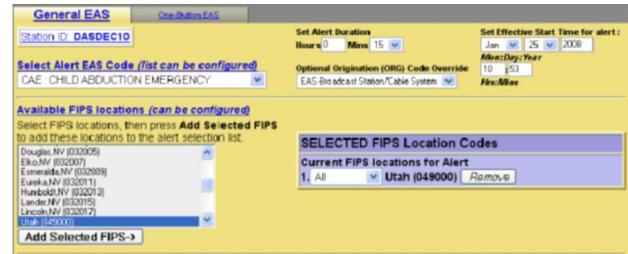
We put the DASDEC II unit into our facility in January 2011, and installation was as simple as unboxing it, hooking it up to a laptop, giving the system an IP address, and completing the setup.

Because we selected the DASDEC II unit equipped with three radio tuners, we were able to eliminate equipment in the rack and bring receiver management into the same Web interface we use to control and manage the EAS platform.

Once we got the DASDEC II into the rack and running, we were able to forget about it.

Knowing the nature of the alert and when it was sent is critical to our ability to serve the Devils Lake region, as it allows us to bring additional staff into the studio to help cover the event and keep listeners informed. We appreciate that every time the box originates or forwards an alert, we immediately receive email and text messages.

Our jocks appreciate the improved functionality as well. The Digital Alert Systems unit offers an intuitive interface that makes it easy to configure and trigger alerts manually. The users here simply pick the counties, event, and time and then click.



Originating an alert is quick and easy

The Weekly EAS Test is easily handled by a one button system.

With support for segmented audio, the system also has allowed us to maintain our program interrupt workflow, which meant that we did not have to retrain our staff.

We are so proud of how well our new EAS system operates that at a recent meeting with local emergency managers and first responders, we gave a live demonstration, accessing the DASDEC II in the studio and displaying the interface on a big-screen display. The demonstration allowed those people who need to access to emergency communications to learn, firsthand, how the process works, and it was tremendously helpful to our local emergency communications planning.



Incoming alerts are displayed, and are emailed and texted to key staff at the same time

Because both the message and audio are logged, our staff can use the system's Web-based interface to play back the alert.

FLEXIBLE, EASY ACCESS TO LOGS

Unlike our earlier paper-based system, the DASDEC II maintains logs on a solid-state drive that makes information readily available by date, simplifying later review for compliance purposes.

When it comes to Double Z Broadcasting, the bottom line is that I invest in dependable equipment that lets me sleep at night. With the Digital Alert Systems' DASDEC II in our studios, I know that our EAS system is working as it should – always.

*Curt Teigens the Owner and General Manager,
Double Z Broadcasting in Devil's Lake, ND.
His email address is: curt@lrradioworks.com*

[Return to The BDR Menu](#)