

# MINNESOTA PUBLIC RADIO

## HF 1088 (Carlson)

FY22-23 GENERAL FUND REQUEST FOR GREATER  
MINNESOTA EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE TO SUPPORT  
MN'S EMERGENCY/AMBER ALERT SERVICES

**MN House Committee on  
State Government Finance Division  
Chair Michael Nelson  
March 5, 2021**

# **MINNESOTA PUBLIC RADIO: THE BACKBONE FOR MINNESOTA'S EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM**

**John Kavanagh**, Director of Public  
Affairs and Government Relations

# MPR AND THE EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

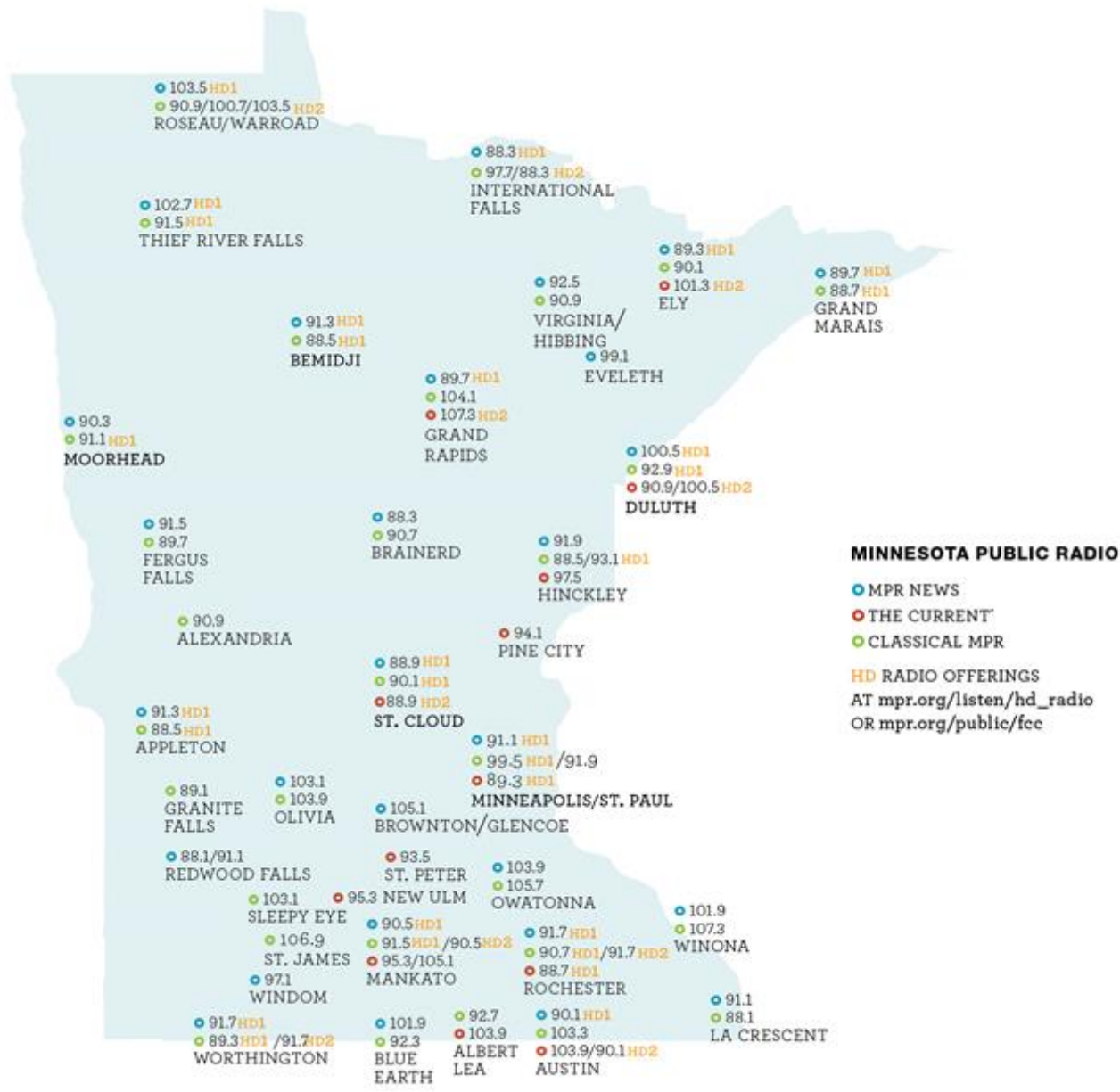
## EAS: A tool for public safety

The Emergency Alert System (EAS) is a national public warning system that requires broadcasters to provide a means for national and state governments to address the public in the event of an emergency. Reasons for using the EAS include natural disasters, chemical spills, severe weather, and child abduction (or AMBER) alerts.

Every broadcaster (commercial TV, commercial radio, public TV, and public radio) is required to monitor alert codes. In the event of an emergency, the broadcaster receives a specific signal; the broadcaster then issues the appropriate warnings and information to its viewers/listeners.

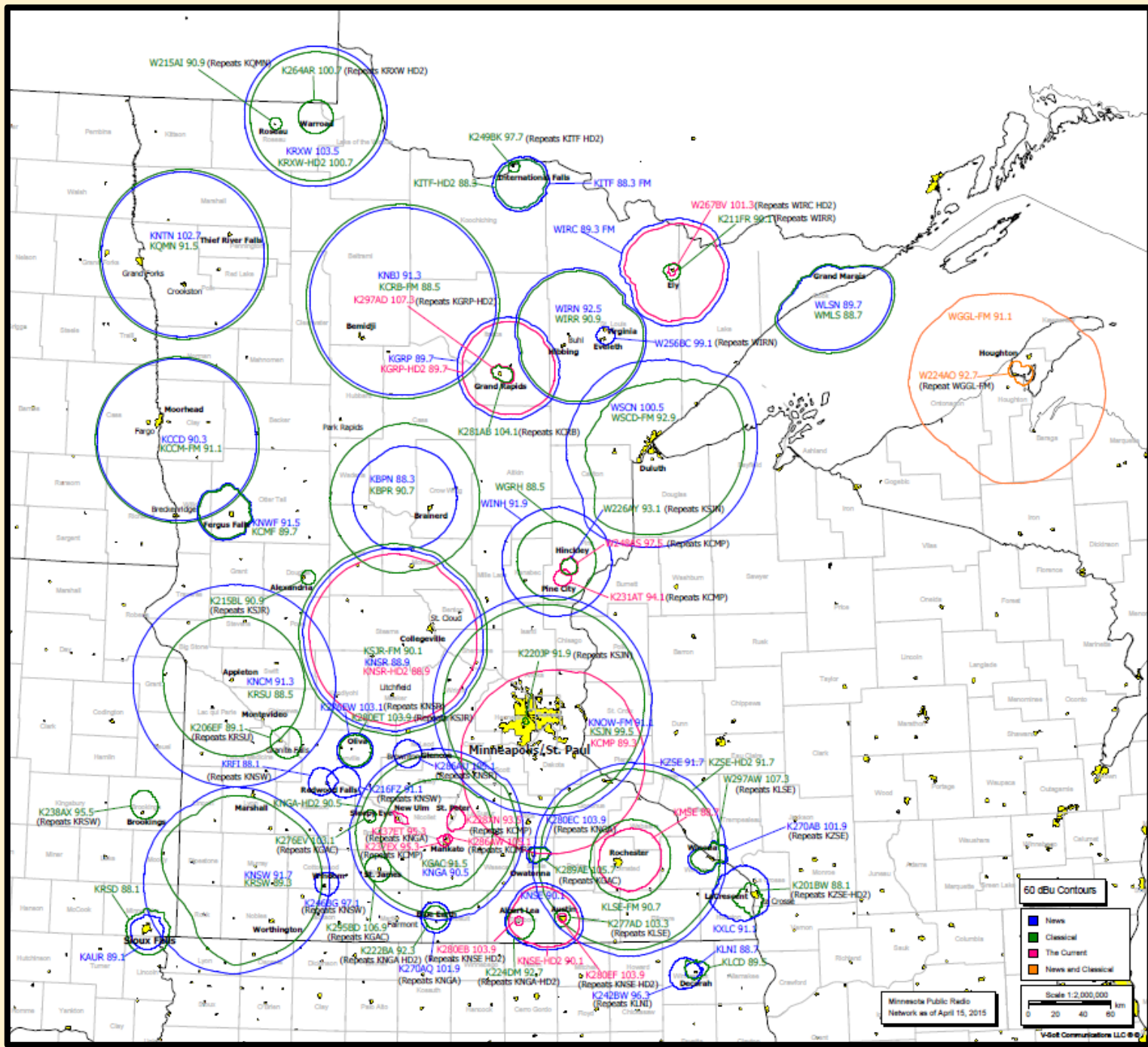
## MPR'S role in EAS

Minnesota Public Radio provides the backbone for Minnesota's EAS, thanks to its unique ability to convey emergency information to broadcasters throughout Minnesota almost immediately. This is possible because of MPR's network coverage throughout MN.



# ENSURING A SAFE AND INFORMED PUBLIC

With more than 80 stations throughout the region, Minnesota Public Radio can distribute EAS messages statewide. All of MN's radio, television and cable broadcasters rely on and monitor MPR's radio network 24 hours a day. In the event of an emergency, the appropriate warnings and information can be broadcast to audiences across the state.



# REACHING 95% OF MN'S HOUSEHOLDS

Because no other media organization in MN has MPR's statewide reach, MPR is designated as the backbone to the EAS. MPR's signal reaches over 95% of the state and over 900,000 listeners tune in each week. This network allows MPR to distribute the EAS signal statewide to all MN broadcasters.

\*The 60 dBu contour is a line on a map that connects points where an FM radio signal is received at 60 decibels on an open circuit. A more common definition of the contour would be the line on the map where a reliable signal can be received by an ordinary antennae and radio. The area encompassed by the 60dBu contour is important to the licensing process for the radio station.

# MPR AND THE MINNESOTA INTEGRATED PUBLIC ALERT WARNING SYSTEM TEAM (MN-IPAWS) PARTNERS LIST

- Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
- Minnesota Emergency Management
- Minnesota Homeland Security Emergency Management
- Police Chiefs, Fire Chiefs
- Minnesota State Patrol Division
- National Weather Service
- Minnesota Department of Transportation
- Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers
- Association of Public Safety Communication Officials
- The Minnesota Broadcasters Association
- Cable industry
- Division of Emergency Communications Network
- WCCO Radio
- Wireless telecommunications industry
- Minnesota Telephone Association
- Minnesota Public Television Association



The International Control Center is the technological center for the EAS and AMBER Alert. Photo by Eamon Coyne, MPR Broadcast Engineer.

# 2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION MPR EQUIPMENT GRANT

FY20-21: \$1.02 million

FY20: \$510,000

FY21: \$510,000

## HOW MPR INVESTED MINNESOTA GENERAL FUND SUPPORT IN FY20

### Emergency Repairs

Appleton, Austin, Bemidji, Brainerd, Buhl, Collegeville, Duluth, Ely, Fergus Falls, Grand Marais, International Falls, La Crescent, Moorhead, Redwood Falls, Rochester, St. Peter, Thief River Falls, Warroad, and Worthington

### Exciter Screen

International Falls

### Modulation Monitors

Austin, Duluth, Grand Marais, International Falls, Moorhead, St. Peter, Warroad, and Worthington

### Satellite Dish Covers

Brainerd and Collegeville

### Transmitters

Austin, Collegeville, and Duluth



The Uplink Satellite provides the broadcast, Emergency Alert, and AMBER Alert signals to the MPR regional radio network. Photo by Eamon Coyne, MPR Broadcast Engineer.



# HOW MPR PLANS TO INVEST MINNESOTA GENERAL FUND SUPPORT IN FY21

## **Emergency Repairs**

Austin, Bemidji, Brainerd, Thief River Falls, and Worthington

## **Transmitter**

Moorhead

## **Studio Data Cabling**

Bemidji

## **Antenna**

Redwood Falls

## **FY22-23 proposed maintenance and replacement projects include:**

**Appleton**

**Brainerd**

**Buhl**

**Cloquet**

**Collegeville**

**Duluth**

**Fergus Falls**

**Grand Marais**

**La Crescent**

**Northfield**

**The total need is well over \$3.1 million.**

# MPR EQUIPMENT GRANT

Will be used for:

- Maintaining and replacing equipment for MPR's Greater MN stations ONLY

Will not be used for:

- Stations in the Twin Cities
- Programming
- MPR employee salaries
- Travel and food

**HF 1088**  
**MPR 2021 EQUIPMENT GRANT REQUEST**

**FY22-23: \$1,020,000**

**FY22: \$510,000**

**FY23: \$510,000**

# Thank you!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT  
MINNESOTA PUBLIC RADIO, VISIT [MPR.ORG](http://MPR.ORG)

 **MINNESOTA PUBLIC RADIO®**

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