

WARNING: INCONSISTENCY IN INTERRUPT HANDLING

Recently we discovered an inconsistency in the manner in which interrupt messages are handled. Externally generated messages from AWIPS are handled one way and messages generated internally in CRS from Emergency Override or the Weather Message window are handled another.

Background

I. A non-interrupt active message will be scheduled for a particular transmitter's broadcast cycle if the following conditions are satisfied:

1. One or more Listening Area Codes (LACs) that map to that transmitter are contained in the message's Message Header.
2. The message's Message Type is defined in one or more broadcast suites contained in that transmitter's broadcast program.

Example 1

1. Message Type WBCTORNW1 is defined only in broadcast suite SEVERE_NW1.
2. Transmitter 1 has a broadcast program called PROG_NW1 with an Exclusive Suite called SEVERE_NW1.
3. Transmitter 2 has a broadcast program called PROG_NW2 with an Exclusive Suite called SEVERE_NW2.
4. LAC MDC005 maps to Transmitter 1 only; LAC MDC007 maps to Transmitter 2 only.
5. Non-interrupt message WBCTORNW1.AW with Message Type WBCTORNW1 and LACs MDC005-007 is received by CRS.

This message will broadcast only on transmitter 1 only because it is not defined in any suite for Transmitter 2's broadcast program.

II. Interrupt messages are handled differently because they will interrupt the broadcast and play immediately on all transmitters specified in the LACs without checking to see if the Message Type is defined in one or more broadcast suites contained in the transmitter's broadcast program. After the initial broadcast of the message as an interrupt, the software will check for the scheduling to see if the message will continue to broadcast.

Using the same example above, but with an interrupt message, the initial broadcast will be on both transmitters 1 and 2, but subsequent broadcasts will be on transmitter 1 only.

Problem

The software no longer works this way for externally generated interrupt messages. Externally generated interrupt messages now behave as if they are non-interrupt messages. So in the example above, the interrupt message will broadcast only on transmitter one, even on the first broadcast. Non-interrupt messages and interrupt messages that are generated internally using Emergency Override or the Weather Message window behave correctly as before. This problem has existed at least since Build 8.5 was operational and probably before that. Sites should be aware of this difference that exists in the software and plan accordingly.