

Emergency Communication and Mass Notification Systems – Comparative Analysis

NFPA-72 2010 Compliance & ECS Requirements	AlertWave Visiplex's Wireless Modular Indoor & Outdoor ECS	IP Network ECS Alert system that is based on local wired or wireless networks	High Power Speaker Array 'Big Mouth' Outdoor voice messaging	Wired Indoor ECS Systems Wired Multi-Control System	Fire Alarm & EVAC Systems Expanded Fire Alarm for ECS Capabilities	Wireless Short-Range ECS Wireless 'Frequency Hopping' systems	Email, Text and Phone Cell Phone & Email Notification System
Device Supervision (speaker, strobe, signboard, etc.)	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✘
Outdoor Alerts	✔	✘	✔	✘	✘	✔	✘
Indoor Alerts	✔	✘	✘	✔	✔	✔	✘
Telephone Activation	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Zoning Capabilities	✔	✔	✔	✔	✘	✔	✘
Independent Device Operation	✔	✔	✔	✔	✘	✘	✔
Pre-programmed Alerts	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Live Voice Alerts	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✘
System Cost	Low to Medium	Medium	High	High	High	Medium to High	Low
Average Life Cycle/Maintenance Cost	Low	Low	Low to Medium	Low	Medium	Low	High
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Wireless system for easy installation •Modular design for easy unit additions & system expansion •Unlimited zones •Over-the-air device programmability •Indoor & Outdoor use •Redundant system survivability •Uses FCC user dedicated RF band 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Leverages existing local network resources, •Modular design. •Limited voice capabilities •Limited power •System platform vulnerable to network availability & down time •Saturation possible during emergency situations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Outdoor voice messaging for large geographical areas. •No integrated interior voice messaging capabilities •No redundancy if tower is disabled •Limited zoning capabilities •Poor voice intelligibility •Limited supervision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Indoor wired system using multiple controllers. •Limited system survivability due to its design •Limited zoning capabilities •Limited supervision of end units •Limited voice power •Costly system expansion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Wired system •Fully supervised •May use existing resources. •No redundancy if main system is lost or wired connection is broken •No visual text alerts •Limited zoning capabilities •Poor voice quality •No outdoor alerts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Wireless system for easy installation •Modular design for easy unit additions & system expansion •Multiple zones •Indoor or outdoor use. •Limited supervision capabilities •Limited integration with in-house systems •System platform uses public RF bands prone to interference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Easy to implement •No geographic limitation on distribution of alert •Notifies database members only •No zoning capabilities •Slow alerting process •Phones and computers must be in a reception area to receive the alerts •Limited support for local visual and audible alerts.