PRIMER
MASS NOTIFICATION & EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

The design of your Mass Notification and Emergency Communication system must deliver both reach and clarity to properly provide 100% coverage with intelligibility for life safety communications. Your system design must include the following capabilities:

- Speaker design and orientation for Acoustically Distinguishable Spaces (ADS)

- Prioritization of announcements and signaling

- Monitoring and reporting of system operability

- Redundancy as a system fail safe

- Pre-Recorded messaging for specific events

Below is a list of considerations when designing your MNEC system. It is divided into three divisions as you look at the Areas you need to reach, the vehicles of COMMUNICATION and the SYSTEM requirements necessary for operability.

AREAS
Following is a list of locations you need to consider when detailing your mass notification and emergency communications plan. It is vital to think through not only where the initial communication needs to occur but also where you will direct occupants to safety and then notify them when all is clear.

Open Office Plans	Warehouse	Rooftops
Closed Offices	Conference Rooms	Lobby
Bathrooms	Training Hall	Loading Dock
Production Floors	Stairwells	Rally Points
Parking Garage	Cafeteria / Lunch / Break Rooms	Elevator Banks
Call Center Floors	Mechanical / Maintenance Rooms	Auditorium / Theater

COMMUNICATION
There are a variety of communication vehicles depending on who you are trying to reach and where they are located. From verbal announcements to digital paging to text messaging, reaching your audience with clear, intelligible instruction is critical to their safety. You should consider the following vehicles of communication when developing your plan as they are all capable of integrating into a mass notification and emergency communications system:

Overhead Paging (inside facility)	Strobe Lighting
Loud Speaker Paging (outside facility)	Horns
Phone Paging	Sirens
Digital Displays	Light boards
Email	Fire Alarm Systems
Text Alerts	

LENCORE
MANUFACTURER. INNOVATOR. LEADER.

SYSTEM

System operability is the determining factor of success with a mass notification and emergency communications system. There are a number of system design decisions which are required based on the specific needs of your facility or facilities. The following are critical elements to account for in any system design:

Redundancy. An important aspect to any MNEC system is the system's built in fail safes. A MNEC system should be able to not only notify you of a compromise in the system but it should ensure 24/7 operability with a redundant signal.

Reporting. Similar to redundancy, your MNEC system should provide monitoring and reporting for thermal and other events to maintain operability. Notification of any system compromise is a critical factor in your system design.

Intelligibility. There are specific intelligibility standards, namely STIPA, which must be achieved in your Mass Notification and Emergency Communications system design. STIPA is a standard used to ensure that the intended audience can understand the audible message.

Zoning. Acoustically Distinguishable Spaces (ADS) are defined within your facility and are customized to your needs. Zones should be established whether by building, floor, department or other criteria in order to deliver the proper message within the ADS.

Controls. Understanding the ease of use for the MNEC system is important – especially before an event occurs. The controls should be password protected but easily accessible from anywhere. Furthermore, the controls should be robust enough to achieve your objective of reach and clarity for your intended audience.

Pre-Recorded Announcements. MNEC systems should consider the use of pre-recorded announcements for potential, foreseen emergencies such as fire or weather. These "canned" messages reduce human error in the event of an emergency and deliver clear, professional instructions to direct occupants to safety.

Prioritization. The paging aspects of the system should include prioritization levels for both local and global microphone or telephone inputs to ensure that the most critical announcements and communications are delivered most timely.

Content. In many instances organizations insist on receiving content, through RSS feeds, on weather in order to better manage their operations.

Building(s). Mass Notification and Emergency Communication systems are designed based on the needs of the owner. Systems are capable of being tied together across multiple buildings and multiple locations, locally and globally.

Preventative Maintenance. A MNEC system is designed to ensure the life safety of employees and occupants. Similar to a fire alarm system, maintenance should be routinely scheduled through an ongoing program in order to effectively maximize the systems performance for when it is really needed.

Surge & Uninterruptible Power Supply Systems. Protect your hardware and ensure 24/7 operability with power conditioning equipment.

With proper design, installation and system maintenance and monitoring your Mass Notification and Emergency Communications system will help you ensure the safety and welfare of your employees and occupants.

LENCORE
MANUFACTURER. INNOVATOR. LEADER.

www.lencore.com