# Weather Alert Notifications

Information taken from Emergency Alerts | Ready.gov

When emergencies strike, public safety officials use timely and reliable systems to alert you. This page describes different warning alerts you can get and how to get them.

# Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs)

<u>Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs)</u> are short emergency messages from authorized federal, state, local, tribal and territorial public <u>alerting authorities</u> that can be broadcast from cell towers to any WEA-enabled mobile device in a locally targeted area. WEAs can be sent by state and local public safety officials, the <u>National Weather</u> <u>Service</u>, the <u>National Center for Missing and Exploited Children</u> and the President of the United States.

- WEAs look like text messages but are designed to get your attention with a unique sound and vibration repeated twice.
- WEAs are no more than 360 characters and include the type and time of the alert, any action you should take and the agency issuing the alert.
- WEAs are not affected by network congestion and will not disrupt texts, calls or data sessions that are in progress.
- You are not charged for receiving WEAs and there is no need to subscribe.

If you are not receiving WEAs here are some tips to troubleshoot your mobile device:

- 1. Check the settings on your mobile device and review your user manual (you may be able to find this online too).
  - Older phones may not be WEA capable, and some cell phone models require you to enable WEAs.
  - Some mobile service providers call these messages "Government Alerts," or "Emergency Alert Messages."
- 2. Check with your wireless provider to see if they can resolve the issue.
  - All major phone providers and some smaller providers participate in WEA.
  - Federal Communications Commission (FCC) registry of WEA providers.

## **Emergency Alert System (EAS)**

The <u>Emergency Alert System (EAS)</u> is a national public warning system that allows the president to address the nation within 10 minutes during a national emergency. <u>State and local authorities</u> may also use the system to deliver important emergency information such as weather information, imminent threats, AMBER alerts and local incident information targeted to specific areas.

- The EAS is sent through broadcasters, satellite digital audio services, direct broadcast satellite providers, cable television systems and wireless cable systems.
- The President has sole responsibility for determining when the national-level EAS will be activated. FEMA and the FCC are responsible for national-level tests and exercises.
- The EAS is also used when all other means of alerting the public are unavailable.

### NOAA Weather Radio (NWR)

<u>NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR)</u> is a nationwide network of radio stations that broadcast continuous weather information from the nearest National Weather Service office based on your physical location.

- NWR broadcasts official warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- NWR also broadcasts alerts of non-weather emergencies such as national security or public safety threats through the Emergency Alert System.

NOAA - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### **FEMA Mobile App**

The <u>FEMA App</u> allows you to receive real-time weather and emergency alerts, send notifications to loved ones, locate emergency shelters in your area, get preparedness strategies and more.

- Receive real-time weather and emergency alerts from the National Weather Service for up to five locations nationwide.
- Find a nearby shelter if you need to evacuate to a safe space.
- Find out if your location is eligible for FEMA assistance, find Disaster Recovery Center locations, and get answers to your most pressing questions.

#### How to enable emergency notifications?

**Enable**/disable **Emergency Alerts**. 1. From the home screen, swipe down from the **Notification** bar then select the Settings icon. 2. Select **Notifications**, then scroll to and select Advanced settings. 3. Select Wireless **emergency alerts**, then select the desired switches to **enable** or disable the desired **alerts**.