National Weather Service Indianapolis NEWS

Amber Alert to be Disseminated on NOAA All Hazards Weather Radio

The National Weather Service (NWS) office's serving Indiana will become distributors of Amber Alerts in Indiana beginning February 2. The amber alert message will be disseminated on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) all hazards weather radio. "We have been working with the Indiana State Police and the Indiana Broadcasters Association to help enhance the dissemination of amber alerts in Indiana," said Dave Tucek of the Indianapolis weather office. "This activates the Emergency Alert System or EAS and serves as another method by which broadcasters are alerted to a Child Abduction Emergency," he said.

According to Tucek, "When amber alerts are issued by the Indiana State Police, NOAA all hazards weather radios will activate EAS and send the alert to broadcasters and NOAA radio owners in the same way a tornado warning activates EAS and NOAA radios."   Tucek added, "Homeowners of older NOAA radios with EAS capability may receive an "unknown emergency" message on their radios when amber alerts are issued and should tune to local radio or television stations to find out the nature of the emergency."

The amber alert is actually a code called the Child Abduction Emergency (CAE) and was authorized by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in 2002 for activation of the Emergency Alert System or EAS. The CAE code, or amber alert, has already been disseminated by commercial broadcasters in Indiana since 2002. The CAE code was adopted for use by NOAA's NWS in 2004 and planned for implementation in Indiana in 2005 as a way to enhance the dissemination currently provided to broadcasters.

The complete list of weather related emergencies and non-weather related emergencies, like amber alerts and civil emergency messages, carried on NOAA all hazards weather radios can be found at: http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/eas_codes.htm