



Working Together to Save Lives



National Weather Service (NWS) and changes to the Emergency Alert System

- The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), on February 26, 2002, issued a Report and Order (R&O) amending the Emergency Alert System (EAS) rules. The R&O became effective May 16, 2002.
- The FCC adopted a critical provision permitting broadcasters to preselect the state and local EAS messages they wish to display and log, giving broadcasters the ability to reduce unknown event code operator alarms and unnecessary log entries.
- The FCC also adopted numerous new civil emergency, weather and natural disaster event codes and NWS's marine area location codes.
- Broadcaster's EAS encoder/decoder equipment must be upgraded to implement many of the changes in this R&O. If EAS equipment is not upgraded, the newly adopted event codes will cause unknown event code operator alarms.
- NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) and the EAS use the same digital protocols, and NWR is the primary means for NWS alerts to activate the Emergency Alert System.
- **All NWS offices will begin implementing the new EAS event codes in messages broadcast over NWR on June 30, 2004.**
- Check online at http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/eas_codes.htm for Service Change Notice 04-10, dated March 3, 2004, for additional information on implementation of the new event and marine area location codes.
- NWS invites your comments on NWS plans. Please send them to either:

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Related Web Sites:

NWS Home Page www.weather.gov **OR** www.nws.noaa.gov
 NOAA Weather Radio Home Page www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr
 NWS EAS Information Web Page www.nws.noaa.gov/os/NWS_EAS.htm
 FCC EAS Report and Order www.fcc.gov/eb/Orders/2002/FCC-02-64A1.html