



National Weather Service Forecast Office Honolulu, HI
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What Are Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)??

Background: Beginning in late June 2012 the National Weather Service, FEMA, and many cell phone carriers have partnered to distribute weather alert messages via cell phones. The messages are pre-designed short statements intended to warn the receiver of impending weather hazards and to encourage them to seek more information. The messages are provided as a free service by cell phone carriers. Cell phone customers can opt out of the service if they so choose.

Message Types: In addition to weather related hazards, the WEA messages will relay local emergency (i.e. evacuation notice), AMBER alerts, and Presidential Alerts. Emergency management officials with a FEMA IPAWS account will be able to initiate messages.

WEA Messages Originated by NWS

When new alert or correction issued or time/area extended

Warning Type	WEA Message
Tsunami Warning	Tsunami danger on the coast. Go to high ground or move inland. Check local media. -NWS
Tornado Warning	Tornado Warning in this area til hh:mm tzT. Take shelter now. -NWS
Extreme Wind Warning	Extreme Wind Warning this area til hh:mm tzT ddd. Take shelter. -NWS
Flash Flood Warning	Flash Flood Warning this area til hh:mm tzT. Avoid flooded areas. Check local media. -NWS
Hurricane Warning	Hurricane Warning this area til hh:mm tzT ddd. Check local media and authorities. -NWS
Typhoon Warning	Typhoon Warning this area til hh:mm tzT ddd. Check local media and authorities. -NWS
Blizzard Warning	Blizzard Warning this area til hh:mm tzT ddd. Prepare. Avoid Travel. Check media. -NWS
Ice Storm Warning	Ice Storm Warning this area til hh:mm tzT ddd. Prepare. Avoid Travel. Check media. -NWS
Dust Storm Warning	Dust Storm Warning in this area til hh:mm tzT ddd. Avoid travel. Check local media. -NWS



On the left is a list of current weather related warning messages that will be alerted via the WEA system. Tsunami warnings will be added to the list later this year.

The associated text for each message is listed in the right column of the image.

Legend
tzT = timezone
ddd= three letter abbreviation for day of the week

Reception: WEA messages are received automatically on enabled phones upon hazard product issuance. They are geographically sensitive, so only people within the warned area will be alerted. In addition, if someone from outside the warning area travels into the hazard area they will be alerted of the hazard. Currently the system is county based.

More Information: For more information on the WEA system, including whether your cell phone carrier supports the initiative, check out the following links.

- <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/wea.html>
- http://www.noaa.gov/features/03_protecting/wireless_emergency_alerts.html
- http://www.ctia.org/consumer_info/safety/index.cfm/AID/12082 - Cell phone providers



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