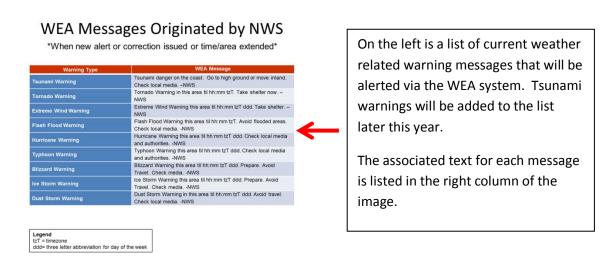


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What Are Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)??

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 predesigned 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.



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

