



## At-a-Glance Guide for Creating Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs)

This fact sheet can be used to assist alerting authorities as they create alert and warning messages for the public.

### CRITERIA FOR ISSUING A WEA

- Situation requires public to take **immediate** action.
- Situation poses a **serious** threat to life and property.
- **High** degree of probability that the situation will occur.
- Are other means of sending the information adequate to ensure rapid delivery?

### REMEMBER

- The best warning messages are specific, consistent, certain, clear and accurate.
- Use simple language, avoid non-standard language, and avoid jargon.
- Do NOT use idiomatic expressions like “take cover” or “avoid low lying areas.” They are not easily understood by Deaf American Sign Language (ASL) users.
- Translate templates in advance for foreign languages.

### EXAMPLE WEA TEMPLATE

- [Event name corresponding to event code element] in this area until [Expiration time in local time zone derived from Expires element] [Assigned value derived from instruction-specific event code (EVI, SPW) or response type element; (3rd description)][Sender Name value, typically associated with the alert originator log in ID]
- [TOR] in this area until [2 PM EST] [SPW][check local media – NWS]
- Tornado Warning this area until 2 pm EST shelter in place check local media – NWS

### PROTECTIVE BEHAVIOR CODES

Avoid .....	Avoid Hazard
EVI .....	Evacuate Now
Execute .....	Execute Action
Monitor .....	Monitor Radio/TV
Prepare .....	Prepare for Action
SPW .....	(Take) Shelter (in Place)

### STATE/LOCAL EVENT CODES

Required Monthly Test .....	RMT
Required Weekly Test .....	RWT
Administrative Message .....	ADR
Avalanche Warning .....	AVW
Avalanche Watch .....	AVA
Blizzard Warning .....	BZW
Child Abduction Emergency .....	CAE
Civil Danger Warning .....	CDW
Civil Emergency Message .....	CEM
Coastal Flood Warning .....	CFW
Coastal Flood Watch .....	CFA
Dust Storm Warning .....	DSW
Earthquake Warning .....	EQW
Evacuation Immediate .....	EVI
Fire Warning .....	FRW
Flash Flood Warning .....	FFW
Flash Flood Watch .....	FFA
Flash Flood Statement .....	FFS
Flood Warning .....	FLW
Flood Watch .....	FLA
Flood Statement .....	FLS
Hazardous Materials Warning .....	HMW
High Wind Warning .....	HWW
High Wind Watch .....	HWA
Hurricane Warning .....	HUW
Hurricane Watch .....	HUA
Hurricane Statement .....	HLS
Law Enforcement Warning .....	LEW
Local Area Emergency .....	LAE
Network Message Notification .....	NMN
911 Telephone Outage Emergency .....	TOE
Nuclear Power Plant Warning .....	NUW
Practice/Demo Warning .....	DMO
Radiological Hazard Warning .....	RHW
Severe Thunderstorm Warning .....	SVR
Severe Thunderstorm Watch .....	SVA
Severe Weather Statement .....	SVS
Shelter in Place Warning .....	SPW
Special Marine Warning .....	SMW
Special Weather Statement .....	SPS
Tornado Warning .....	TOR
Tornado Watch .....	TOA
Tropical Storm Warning .....	TRW
Tropical Storm Watch .....	TRA
Tsunami Warning .....	TSW
Tsunami Watch .....	TSA
Volcano Warning .....	VOW
Winter Storm Warning .....	WSW
Winter Storm Watch .....	WSA