

Weather Alerts to Your Cell Phone

Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)

What are WEA messages?

Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) are emergency messages sent by authorized government alerting authorities through your mobile carrier. Government partners include local and state public safety agencies, FEMA, the FCC, the Department of Homeland Security, and the National Weather Service. No sign up is required! Alerts are sent automatically to WEA-capable smart phones and watches during an emergency.

Why is this important to me?

Alerts received at the right time can help keep you safe during an emergency. With WEA, alerts are sent to your mobile device when you are in a warned area, without need to download an app or subscribe to a service.

What types of alerts will I receive?

- Extreme weather warnings
- Local emergencies requiring evacuation or immediate action
- AMBER Alerts
- Presidential Alerts during a national emergency

What types of weather warnings are included?

Flash Flood, Tornado and Hurricane Warnings

Less Common: Tsunami, Extreme Wind, Storm Surge and Dust Storm Warnings.

What does a WEA message look like?

WEA will look like a text message. The WEA message will show the type and time of the alert, any action you should take, and the agency issuing the alert. The message will be no more than 90 characters on most phones, but this limit has recently been expanded to 360 characters with a Spanish-language message as well (will be evident on newer phones).

Will I receive a WEA message if I'm visiting an area where I don't live, or outside the area where my phone is registered?

Yes, if you have a WEA-capable phone.

How will I know the difference between WEA and a regular text message?

WEA messages include a special tone and vibration, both repeated twice.

What if I don't want to receive these emergency messages?

You can opt out of the Amber or Extreme Weather WEAs. Details on how to set your phone up for these alerts including opt out instructions can be found by searching your wireless carrier's website for WEA or wireless emergency alerts. The details on how to set these up are dependent on your carrier and smart phone model.

Other weather alert apps

There are many weather alert apps, many free, that have some of the same functionality as the WEA system in that they will send you a weather alert usually as a text message for your location and any others you specify. Do a search for "weather alerts" at the App Store or wherever you find apps on your phone.



For more information check out these links.

www.ready.gov/alerts

<https://www.fema.gov/integrated-public-alert-warning-system>

<https://www.weather.gov/wrn/wea>