



Weather-Ready Nation

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

WIRELESS
EMERGENCY
ALERTS
CAPABLE



Wireless Emergency Alerts Save Lives

Daniel Bennett was officiating Sunday services before 600 to 700 people when he heard an electronic warning tone. Then another. And another.

"I'd say probably two dozen phones started going off in the service, and everybody started looking down," he said.

What they saw was a text message from the National Weather Service cautioning that a twister was in the area. Bennett stopped the service and ushered everyone to a safe place...

- Forecasts, warnings spared lives from tornadoes, Associated Press, November 18, 2013



Photo: Maria Heflin

Wireless Emergency Alerts (**WEA**) are messages sent to your mobile phone during an emergency. No sign-up is required.

What Kind of Alerts?

WEA are sent only during an emergency. They are sent by authorized government alerting authorities through your mobile carrier.

Types of alerts include:

- ✓ Extreme weather warnings (including flood and tornado warnings)
- ✓ Local emergencies requiring evacuation or immediate action
- ✓ AMBER Alerts

- ✓ Presidential Alerts during a national emergency.

The National Weather Service sends **WEA** messages for:

- ✓ Tsunami Warnings
- ✓ Tornado and Flash Flood Warnings
- ✓ Hurricane, Typhoon, Dust Storm and Extreme Wind Warnings.

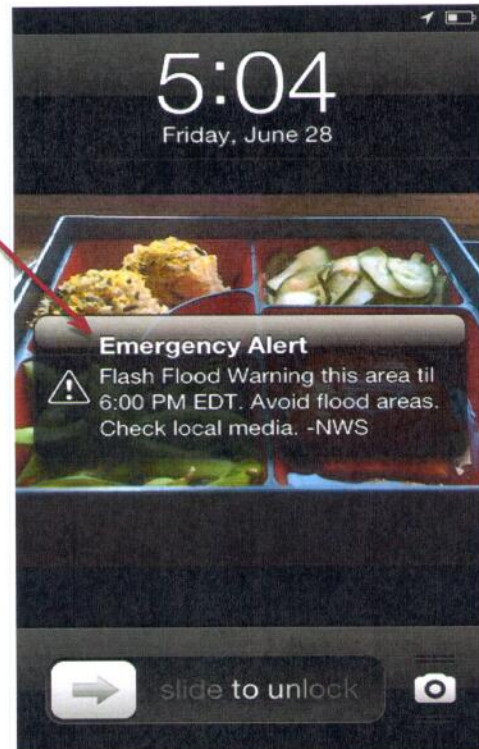
WEA messages are relevant to your location – you only receive **WEA** messages when you and your cell phone are in the area of the emergency. If you visit another city, you will only receive alerts for that location and not your home town

What Do the Alerts Look Like?

WEA will look like a text message. The **WEA** message will typically show the type and time of the alert, any action you should take, and the government agency issuing the alert.

The message will be no more than 90 characters.

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



What Should I Do If I Receive an Alert?

Follow any action advised by the emergency message. Seek more details from your favorite TV or radio station, NOAA Weather Radio, news website, desktop application, mobile application, or other trusted source of information.

Do I Need to Sign Up for WEA?

NO! No signup is required! Alerts are sent automatically to **WEA**-capable phones during an emergency.

WEA is free! No need to download an app.

How Do I Know WEA is Enabled on My Phone?

Many new cell phones are **WEA**-capable. Prepaid mobile devices may also be **WEA**-capable. For information about which mobile devices are **WEA**-capable and carrier participation, please or contact your wireless carrier or visit <http://www.ctia.org/wea>

And don't turn them off! Keep them on to ensure that you receive alerts for severe weather and other emergencies.

For More Information

More than 100 mobile carriers, including all of the largest carriers, participate in the **WEA** program. For information, contact your wireless carrier.

