



Alert & Warning Notifications

There are many Alert, Warning, & Notification Systems throughout the United States. To receive timely alerts and notifications, check with your local emergency management office to find out what systems are available in your area and how to sign up for them.

Local Jurisdiction Emergency Notification Systems:

Many jurisdictions have opt-in public alert and warning systems. An opt-in system means you must sign up to receive the alert. Once you have signed up, officials in your area can send you text or email messages about local emergencies. Most opt-in systems allow subscribers to choose the devices that receive alerts as well as the types of alerts. Because you may not be near a television or radio when something happens, a local text or email alert can be an extremely useful source of critical information. A small cost may be associated with receipt of text messages from your mobile device service provider.

To find out what alerts are available in you area, you can do an Internet search with your town, city or county name and the work “alerts”; you can go to the website of your local emergency management of public safety office; or you can contact theses office by telephone.

Enhanced Telephone Notification (ETN) Systems:

In the event of an emergency, local officials in many local communities can send warning messages and instructions to individual in an at-risk area through an ETN system, such as Reverse 911 system. Most systems included landline phone numbers, but some allow for message to Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) and mobile phone through an opt-in process - check with your local emergency management for information on this system and available features.

Outdoor Sirens and/or Voice Alert Systems:

Outdoor sirens and/or voice alert systems are used to alert people outdoors of an immediate danger so they can take cover. The system is not designed to be heard inside building walls. Note that some communities may still have the siren infrastructure in place but it may no longer be operable, so it is important to check with your local emergency management office to understand if this service is currently provided.

Local School or Organization Notification Systems:

Many workplaces, schools, and community- and faith-based organizations have notification systems to warn individuals of emergencies and provide tailored notifications. These may range from listservs to opt-in txt and email systems similar to those use by local jurisdictions.

The Emergency Alert System (EAS) is a national public warning system that requires broadcasters, cable television systems, wireless cable systems, satellite digital audio radio service (SDARS) providers and direct broadcast satellite (DBS) providers to provide the communications capability to the President to address the American public during a national emergency. The system also may be used by state and local authorities to deliver important emergency information such as AMBER alerts and weather information targeted to specific areas.

The local community’s EAS broadcasts emergency related information that is time sensitive and possibly life-saving over the radio and television. When the EAS is activated, the television screen goes blank after a five (5) second audible tone. A voice message will then be broadcast. At the end of the message, the television will return to its regular programming.

EAS Station:

Local Radio Station:

Local Notification Alert (Apps): *(text, email, phone)*



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Success in saving lives and property is dependent upon clear and timely dissemination of emergency information to persons in threatened areas. Alert, Warning, & Notification systems help authorities inform you of imminent threats and what actions you need to take.

Weather & Flood Alerts:

Advisory: Less serious conditions - can cause significant inconvenience; if caution is not exercised, could lead to situations that may threaten life and/or property.

Watch: The risk of hazardous flood or weather conditions have increased. It is usually issued 12- to 36-hours prior to the potential event. It is intended to provide enough lead time for emergency plans to be set in motion.

Warning: When hazardous flood or weather conditions are occurring, are imminent, or have a very high probability of occurrence. A *Warning* is typically issued within 12-hours of a life or property-threatening event.

Tsunami Alerts:

Warning: Danger, run to higher ground, follow emergency instructions.

Advisory: Possible strong and dangerous currents, be prepared to take action, stay off the beach.

Watch: Potential danger, be alert—listen to your radio.

Information Statement: Information only, no tsunami generated.

Volcano/Lahar Alerts:

- A system of All Hazards Alert Broadcast (AHAB) sirens are positioned on volcanoes in Washington State (Mt. Adams, Mt. Baker, Mt. Rainier, Mt. St. Helens, and Glacier Peak).
- Check with your local officials to find out what alert and notification systems are in your community.
- Sign up to receive notifications via your homes, email and other devices.

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from a nearby National Weather Service office to specially configured NOAA weather radio receivers.

Where can I purchase a weather radio?

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio Receivers can be purchased at many radio electronic retailers and on the internet. Prices of weather radios range from \$20 to more than \$200.

How do they work?

NOAA/ NWS (National Weather Service) broadcasts conditions 24-hours a day, 7-days a week. They behave similar to smoke detectors - silently monitoring and then alerting you with initial warning messages, so you will have more time to respond.

www.weather.gov



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- High Wind Warning
- Marine Storm Warning
- Flood Warning
- Flash Flood Watch/Warning
- Tidal Flood Warning
- Severe Thunderstorm Watch/Warning
- Tornado Watch/Warning
- Winter Storm Warning
- Blizzard Warning
- Tsunami Watch/Warning
- Dam Failures
- Volcanic Activity including Lahars
- Enemy Attack/Nuclear Accident
- AMBER Child Abduction Alerts
- Secondary Hazards from Terrorism or Earthquakes
- Other Hazardous Events including Chemical Releases