

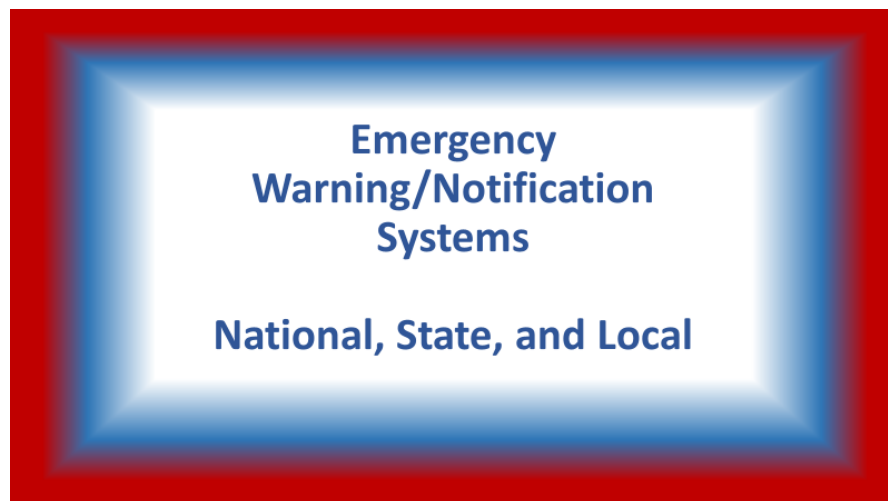
**Supplement to the Training Work Session
Developed by Lynn Rose, February 2023**

Notes: The following slides were developed to provide information to Towns on available emergency alert systems. Some of these slides were provided in the training. Although there may be entities in your town such as the DPW/Highway Department and Town Emergency Management Director that may know this information, the District is providing it for entities in the Town that may be responsible for overseeing the transfer station that may need this information.

There are numerous emergency alert systems available at the national, state, and local levels that are designed to reach people using a variety of technologies (e.g., radio signals, cell signals) and content (e.g., weather, AMBER alerts, etc.). Some you must sign up for, some you must enable your phone to receive, and others you don't have to do anything to receive the alert.

Most District Towns have their own alert system which requires registration. Not all systems work the same way or provide the same type of alerts. Some Towns also sign up for the state system. There is no uniform system across Franklin County. Also, although some national alerts may provide local information, it may not be as detailed as a local alert.

This document begins with an overview of the national system, then state, then local and Franklin County. It also references how to manually get local weather alert information. It discusses the information that attendants have received in training and in their handbook, and the responsibilities of the Town to ensure attendants receive alerts.



National Public Warning Systems

There are 2 components of the national public warning system that enables all levels of government to send urgent emergency information to the public:

1. Emergency Alert System (EAS)



2. Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)



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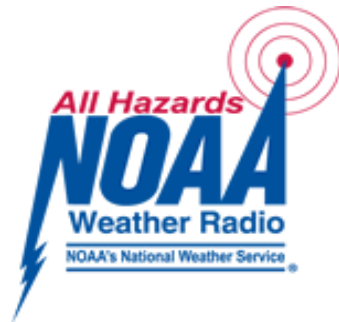
National Emergency Alert System (EAS)



- Sent through broadcasters, satellite digital audio services, direct broadcast satellite providers, cable TV, and wireless cable systems.
- Used when all other means of alerting the public are unavailable.
- Can be used by state and local agencies.
- When an EAS is issued, people will hear a tone followed by an audio message.

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EAS – NOAA Weather Radio (NWR)



NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR)

is a nationwide network of radio stations that broadcast continuous weather information from the nearest NWS office based on your physical location.

NWR broadcasts official warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24/7.

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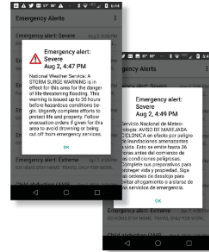
FCSWMD Transfer Station Administrative OSHA Program
EAP – Extreme Heat and Cold Events and Natural Disasters

EAS – Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)

WEAs are part of the EAS issued by the National Weather Service (NWS)

Enables cell phones to receive brief alerts with type, time of alert and actions to take for:

- Severe weather emergencies (e.g., tornados, flash floods, hurricanes)
- Imminent threats to life or property
- Amber alerts



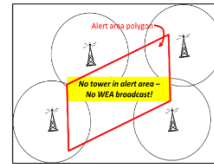
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EAS – Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)

WEAs are part of the EAS issued by the National Weather Service (NWS)

Does not require a subscription:

- The alerts are sent to all WEA-enabled devices in the impacted region that receive cell service.



Ensure attendants can receive WEAs on their devices:

- Wireless notification settings must be on.
- Older phones may not be WEA capable.
- Some models require you to enable WEAs.

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EAS – Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)



Contact your mobile carrier to find out if they provide WEA-enabled phones.

Information about WEA (including links to cellphone carriers):
<https://www.ctia.org/consumer-resources/wireless-emergency-alerts>.

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EAS – Wireless Emergency Alerts

FAQs about the WEA:

- FEMA's Ready.gov – <https://www.ready.gov/alerts>
- FCC – <https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/wireless-emergency-alerts-wea>
- National Weather Service – <https://www.weather.gov/wrn/wea>

EAS – Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)

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Ensure attendants understand the WEAs:

- Some providers call them “Government Alerts,” or “Emergency Alert Messages.”
- WEAs include a special tone & vibration, both repeated twice.
- WEAs are brief and maybe supplemented by local notifications.
- WEAs include the type and time of the alert, any action people should take, and the agency issuing the alert.

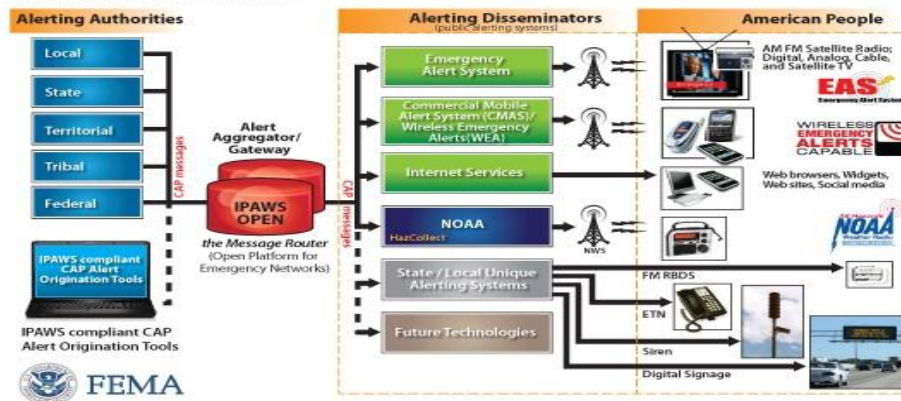


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The Big Picture: Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)

IPAWS Architecture

Standards based alert message protocols, authenticated alert message senders, shared, trusted access & distribution networks, alerts delivered to more public interface devices.



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EAS – Massachusetts

Social Media and Traditional Media

MEMA uses the following media forms to provide preparedness tips, information about severe weather, emergency situations, and disasters, and as a secondary method of alerting:

- Twitter at <https://twitter.com/MassEMA>, and
- Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MassachusettsEMA>

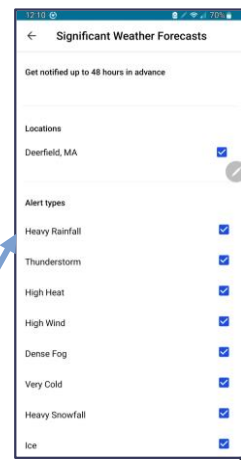
Where to Get Local Weather Alerts

Where:

- Weather Station websites – NOAA, NWS, etc.
- TV weather stations
- Phone apps

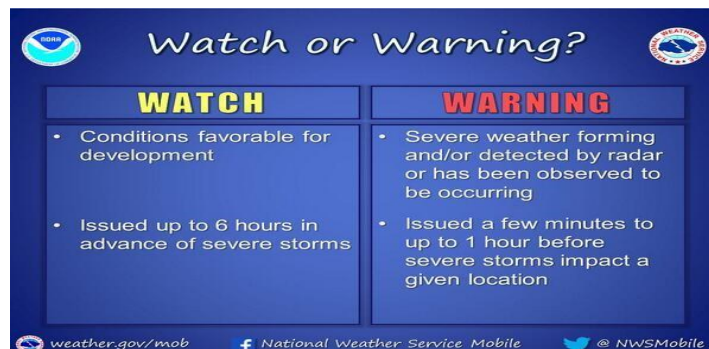
How:

- The alerts are available when you check the weather in all 3 sites
- You can set a cellphone weather app to send alerts to a cell phone



Local Weather Alerts

- ▶ **A Watch**– means that the weather conditions are favorable for dangerous weather and people should be alert to changing conditions
- ▶ **A Warning**– severe weather is already occurring, or is likely to occur, and the public should take protective actions



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Weather Alerts – Examples

WINTER STORM WATCH

A Winter Storm Watch is issued when heavy snow, sleet, or freezing rain is possible.

Be prepared to adjust travel plans in case a Warning is issued.

Be Prepared.

WINTER STORM WARNING

A Winter Storm Warning is issued when heavy snow, sleet, or freezing rain is expected.

Travel will become dangerous. Delay or adjust travel plans until conditions improve.

Take Action!

WIND CHILL WATCH

A Wind Chill Watch is issued when very cold air and wind is possible.

Check the forecast, and be prepared in case a Warning is issued.

Be Prepared.

WIND CHILL WARNING

A Wind Chill Warning is issued when very cold air and wind is expected.

Conditions could lead to frostbite or hypothermia. Limit time outside, dress in layers, and cover up exposed skin.

Take Action!

HIGH WIND WATCH

A High Wind Watch is issued when sustained, strong winds are possible.

Secure loose outdoor items and adjust plans if necessary so that you're not caught outside.

Be Prepared.

HIGH WIND WARNING

A High Wind Warning is issued when sustained, strong winds are happening or about to happen.

Seek shelter in a sturdy structure. If driving, use caution – keep both hands on the wheel and slow down.

Take Action!

FLOOD WATCH

A Flood Watch is issued when flooding is possible.

Stay tuned to trusted news sources and be ready to seek higher ground.

Be Prepared.

FLOOD WARNING

A Flood Warning is issued when flooding is happening or about to happen.

Move to higher ground immediately! Never drive or walk through floodwaters.

Take Action!

What to Monitor in the Weather Alerts

- Pay attention to when a “**watch**” turns into a “**warning**”.
- Pay attention to “possible” impacts – high winds, flood warnings, downed trees, damage to buildings, etc.
- Monitor travel conditions – poor visibility/white-out conditions, road conditions and closures, temperature drops below freezing, flood warnings, etc.



Weather Related Emergencies

Understanding Severe Weather Outlooks

Issued by the Storm Prediction Center

THUNDERSTORMS (no label)	1 - MARGINAL (MRGL)	2 - SLIGHT (SLGT)	3 - ENHANCED (ENH)	4 - MODERATE (MDT)	5 - HIGH (HIGH)
No severe* thunderstorms expected	Isolated severe thunderstorms possible	Scattered severe storms possible	Numerous severe storms possible	Widespread severe storms likely	Widespread severe storms expected
Lightning/flooding threats exist with all thunderstorms	Limited in duration and/or coverage and/or intensity	Short-lived and/or not widespread, isolated intense storms possible	More persistent and/or widespread, a few intense	Long-lived, widespread and intense	Long-lived, very widespread and particularly intense
• Winds to 40 mph • Small hail	• Winds 40-60 mph • Hail up to 1" • Low tornado risk	• One or two tornadoes • Reports of strong winds/wind damage • Hail -1", isolated 2"	• A few tornadoes • Several reports of wind damage • Damaging hail, 1 - 2"	• Strong tornadoes • Widespread wind damage • Destructive hail, 2" +	• Tornado outbreak • Orography



Weather-Ready Nation
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Weather Service
weather.gov/tornado

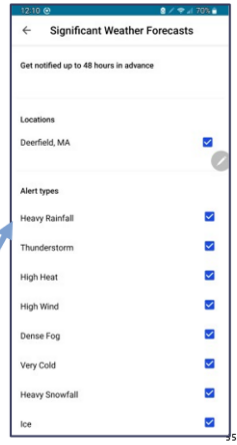
Where to Get Local Weather Alerts

Where:

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- Phone apps

How:

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Weather Alerts: Guidance in the Attendant Handbook

- Where to get emergency information and weather information
- Prepare for power outages and report them
- Ensure their vehicle is safe for winter driving
- How to prepare the TS for extreme events
- What to do with residents during events (e.g., thunderstorm)

Weather Alerts: Guidance in the Attendant Handbook

When the NWS issues watches and warnings, attendants have been directed to pay attention:

- During a Watch
- During a Warning
- During an Event- inside and outside
- After an Event

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Franklin County Response Systems

- . The District Communications Control Point is the “Shelburne Control” dispatch center located at the State Police Station B-2 at Shelburne Falls. It communicates directly with:
 - . all fire, police, and emergency medical agencies on two county-wide simulcast dispatch channels (referred to as Simulcast-1 and Simulcast-2).
 - . Massachusetts State Police on their radio systems, other state agencies, and other District Control Points.
- . Public Safety Answering Points:
 - . Shelburne Control serves for all FCSWMD member towns except for Montague.
 - . Montague answers their own 911 calls.

The designated backup control point is the “Northampton Control” dispatch center located at the State Police station B-HQ at Northampton.

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Franklin County Response Systems

- . Franklin County is located in the following service areas:
 - Fire District 9
 - Haz Mat District 4
 - MEMA Region 3
 - EMS Region 1
 - DEP Western Region
 - DPH Western Region 1