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Public Information Statement 24-17
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1130 AM EST Tue Mar 5 2024

To: Subscribers:
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
 -NOAAPORT
 -NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards Listeners
 Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From: Douglas C. Young
 Chief, Digital and Graphical Information Support
 Branch

Subject: Indiana Statewide NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) and
 Emergency Alert System (EAS) Live Event Code Test for a Tornado
 Warning on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 10:15 AM EDT

Governor Eric Holcomb has proclaimed March 10-16, 2024 as Severe Weather Preparedness Week.

On Tuesday, March 12 at approximately 10:15 AM Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) the National Weather Service (NWS) Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) in Chicago, IL (LOT); Indianapolis, IN (IND); Louisville, KY (LMK); Northern Indiana (IWX) and Paducah, KY (PAH); the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS); and the Indiana Broadcasters Association (IBA) plan to conduct a live code Tornado Warning test throughout most of the state of Indiana.

The live code test supports the Indiana Statewide Tornado Drill and maximizes participation in the drill by local emergency management agencies and broadcasters and tests broadcast systems. A live code test means a Tornado Warning test message will be disseminated via audio and Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) tones over NWR transmitters serving Indiana and will activate the Emergency Alert System (EAS).

The audio message will use the phrase "Tornado Warning" but will state that the message is only a test. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) text messages will use a Valid Time Event Code (VTEC) Product Class Code of /T/ for Test and the word Test will be repeated several times in the body of the message. The test will not be sent to cellphones via the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system, although in an actual Tornado Warning, this system would be used.

Note that the NWS WFO in Wilmington, OH (ILN), serving part of extreme eastern and southeastern Indiana, will not conduct a live event code test for a Tornado Warning on March 12, per agreement with the Ohio Broadcasters Association and Cincinnati-area broadcasters. Instead, this

office will issue a Required Weekly Test (RWT) message and a Special Weather Statement (SPS) with tornado preparedness information. This is the same practice and procedures used for the most recent Indiana statewide test.

In the event of significant weather hazards in Indiana on the morning of March 12, the test will be postponed to Wednesday, March 13 at 10:15 AM EDT and will be preceded by another Public Information Statement announcing the change. If significant weather hazards cause the backup date test to be canceled, the test drill will be canceled altogether and not rescheduled.

Table 1. The NWS text products to be disseminated by WFO Indianapolis, Louisville, Paducah, Northern Indiana and Chicago. during the test.

| Product Name | WMO Heading | AWIPS ID |
|-----------------|-------------|----------|
| ----- | ----- | ----- |
| Tornado Warning | WFUS53 KIND | TORIND |
| Tornado Warning | WFUS53 KLMK | TORLMK |
| Tornado Warning | WFUS53 KPAH | TORPAH |
| Tornado Warning | WFUS53 KIWX | TORIWX |
| Tornado Warning | WFUS53 KLOT | TORLOT |

More information about Indiana Severe Weather Preparedness Week and the test Tornado Drill can be found online at;
<https://www.weather.gov/ind/Severewxweek>

For more information, please contact:

Sam Lashley
Warning Coordination Meteorologist
NWS Indianapolis, IN
Sam.Lashley@noaa.gov
317-856-0361

Michael Kochasic
Warning Coordination Meteorologist
NWS Louisville, KY
Michael.Kochasic@noaa.gov
502-969-8842

Christine Wielgos
Warning Coordination Meteorologist
NWS Paducah, KY
Christine.Wielgos@noaa.gov
270-744-6440

Dustin Norman
Warning Coordination Meteorologist
NWS Northern Indiana
Dustin.Norman@noaa.gov
574-834-1104

Mike Bardou
Warning Coordination Meteorologist
NWS Chicago, IL
Mike.Bardou@noaa.gov
815-834-0673

Brandon Peloquin
Warning Coordination Meteorologist
NWS Wilmington, OH
Brandon.Peloquin@noaa.gov
937-383-0428

National Service Change Notices are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification>

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