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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 24-117
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1110 AM EST Mon Dec 23 2024

To: Subscribers:
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
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From: Douglas C. Young, Chief
 Digital and Graphical Information Support Branch

Subject: Implementation of Partial County Alerting via NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) and the Emergency Alert System (EAS) for Hennepin County, Minnesota: Effective on or about March 18, 2025

Based on positive feedback from the broadcaster community, local officials and the public, National Weather Service (NWS) will implement Partial County Alerting (PCA) for Hennepin County, MN, effective on or about March 18, 2025. The following warnings from Weather Forecast Office (WFO) Twin Cities are impacted:

Product Name	WMO Heading	AWIPS ID
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Dust Storm Warning	WWUS55 KMPX	DSWMPX
Flash Flood Warning	WGUS55 KMPX	FFWMPX
Severe Thunderstorm Warning	WUUS55 KMPX	SVRMPX
Snow Squall Warning	WWUS55 KMPX	SQWMPX
Tornado Warning	WFUS55 KMPX	TORMPX

NWS disseminates weather warnings via NWR and the EAS. While many NWS warnings have become more refined in areal extent using forecaster-defined polygons, they are generally conveyed via NWR and EAS on a whole (entire) county basis. NWS has the capability to disseminate these warnings via NWR and EAS for smaller areal sections of counties. NWS refers to these divisions as county partitions; the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) refers to them as subdivisions. Sending warnings to NWR and EAS using partitions is referred to as PCA.

PCA reduces the geographical over alerting of warnings disseminated by NWR and EAS by more closely associating polygon-defined warnings with county partitions. With PCA, NWR Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME)-equipped users can select the county partition(s) for which they will receive automated alerts. Similarly, PCA allows broadcasters to select the county partition(s) they will convey NWS warnings through the EAS. PCA implementation may help limit EAS activation in a given media market.

A comprehensive description of the Hennepin County implementation is provided online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/mpx/HennepinPCAImplementation>

This website provides details and examples of the new warning format and instructions and examples on reprogramming NWR SAME-equipped receivers.

The shapefiles with the Hennepin County Partial County boundaries for NWR and EAS are available online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/gis/AWIPSShapefiles>

Final versions of these shapefiles will be available on February 28, 2025.

Once established in operations, the boundaries of the Hennepin County partitions are fixed. Any modifications would require a formal change process.

For questions or concerns on the PCA implementation for Hennepin County, please contact:

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For comments or questions on the national level PCA initiative, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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