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Public Information Statement 26-62
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
920 AM EDT Tue Sept 1 2026

To: Subscribers:
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
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From: George Jungbluth, Director
 Mission, Systems and Technology

Subject: Seeking initial comments through September 21, 2026, on Transition to Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) as the Primary NWS Watch, Warning, and Advisory Dissemination Product Format and Potentially Discontinuing the VTEC format.

The NWS is modernizing its infrastructure and dissemination to streamline operations, increase reliability, and enhance our services. Currently, Valid Time Event Code (VTEC) format is the primary format for disseminating NWS watches, warnings, and advisories. CAP formatted messages are currently derived from the VTEC format. This VTEC creation process limits the most effective use of digital services, especially geospatial information, for watch and warning products.

We are seeking comments through September 21, 2026 on a proposal to transition entirely to the CAP message format for watch, warning, and advisory dissemination and potentially discontinuing the use of VTEC. The CAP messages are essential for current dissemination systems including the FEMA [Integrated Public Alert and Warning System](#) (IPAWS), and will continue to include elements of the VTEC coding such as event tracking, calls to action, and impacts-based messaging. The NWS will provide additional proposal details including enhancements to future CAP messages after evaluating initial public comment.

The following is a brief summary of some alerts that would potentially no longer have associated VTEC coding and instead be issued only in CAP format.

Watch, Warning, Advisory Type	AWIPS / AFOS PIL	WMO Header
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Severe Thunderstorm and Tornado	SVRxxx TORxxx WCNxxx	WUaaii WFaaii WWaaii
Tropical Storm, Hurricane, and Storm Surge	CWFxxx TCVxxx EWWxxx	FZaaii WTaaii WFaaii

Winter Storm	WSWxxx	WWaaii
Coastal Flood	CFWxxx	WHaaii
Flash Flood	FFAxxx	WGaaii
	FFWxxx	WGaaii
	FLWxxx	WGaaii
Tsunami	TSUxxx	WEaaii
Marine and Coastal	MWWxxx	WHaaii
Hazards	CWFxxx	FZaaii
	SMWxxx	WHaaii

A comprehensive list of NWS CAP messages is available in this document:
[CAP Messages.pdf](#), full URL:
https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/ref/CAP_Messages.pdf .

Further information about NWS CAP format can be found at
<https://vlab.noaa.gov/web/nws-common-alerting-protocol/cap-documentation>

We are looking for comments and feedback on how long it will take to accommodate these changes, what concerns you may have about this change, and whether you would like to be part of a future webinar.

Please provide your feedback via this brief, two question survey:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CAPTransition>

Questions on the proposal may be sent to:

Brian Miretzky
 NWS Common Alerting Protocol Product Owner
 National Weather Service
 Office of Dissemination
 Email: nws.webfeedback@noaa.gov

National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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