NOUS41 KWBC 181355 AAA
PNSWSH

Public Information Statement 26-62 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
955 AM EDT Fri Sep 18 2026

To: Subscribers:
-NOAA Weather Wire Service
-Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
-NOAAPort
Other NWS Partners and Employees

From: George Jungbluth, Director
Mission, Systems and Technology

Subject: Updated: Seeking comments through November 20, 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.

Updated to extend the comment period through November 20, 2026, and corrected the CFW (instead of CWF) AWOS/AFOS PILs and associated WMO Headers, and updated the CAP_Messages.pdf document to remove old alerts.

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 November 20, 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 public comments.

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 Heading |
|---|---|---|
| Severe Thunderstorm and Tornado | SVRxxx<br>TORxxx<br>WCNxxx | WUaaii<br>WFaaii<br>WWaaii |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Tropical Storm, Hurricane, and Storm Surge | CFWxxx<br>TCVxxx<br>EWWxxx | WHaaii<br>WTaaii<br>WFaaii |
| Winter Storm | WSWxxx | WWaaii |
| Coastal Flood | CFWxxx | WHaaii |
| Flash Flood | FFAxxx<br>FFWxxx<br>FLWxxx | WGaaii<br>WGaaii<br>WGaaii |
| Tsunami | TSUxxx | WEaaii |
| Marine and Coastal Hazards | MWWxxx<br>CFWxxx<br>SMWxxx | WHaaii<br>WHaaii<br>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 /

NNNN