

NOUS41 KWBC 262155 AAA  
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 25-96 Updated  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
455 PM EST Thu Feb 26 2026

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

From:        Mary Mullusky, Chief  
              Operations Services Division

Subject: Updated: Implementation of Partial County Alerting via NOAA  
Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) and the Emergency Alert System (EAS) for  
Arapahoe County, Colorado effective on April 16, 2026

Updated to change the implementation date from March 3, 2026 to April 16,  
2026 and final versions of the shapefiles will be available on March 24,  
2026.

Effective on Thu, April 16, 2026, at 2:00 PM Mountain Standard Time (MST),  
2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), NWS Denver/Boulder (BOU) will  
implement Partial County Alerting (PCA) for Arapahoe County, Colorado.  
This is based on positive feedback from the broadcast community, local  
officials and the public.

If April 16, 2026 is declared a Critical Weather Day, this  
implementation will be postponed to April 20, 2026 at 2100 UTC.

The following weather warnings from WFO BOU are impacted for  
this PCA implementation:

Product Name	WMO Heading	AWIPS ID
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Dust Storm Warning	WWUS55 KBOU	DSWBOU
Flash Flood Warning	WGUS55 KBOU	FFWBOU
Severe Thunderstorm Warning	WUUS55 KBOU	SVRBOU
Snow Squall Warning	WWUS55 KBOU	SQWBOU
Tornado Warning	WFUS55 KBOU	TORBOU

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

Disseminating warnings through NWR and EAS using partitions is referred to as PCA.

PCA reduces the geographical over-alerting of warnings by more closely associating polygon-defined warnings and polygon-defined NWEMs with county partitions. With PCA, NWR Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME)-equipped users may 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 and better target EAS activation in a given media market.

WFO Boulder has conferred with local emergency managers, state and local government officials and broadcasters serving Arapahoe County and will implement 3 partial county zones for Arapahoe County. A comprehensive description with maps and the new SAME and EAS Location Codes associated with each Arapahoe County partial county zone is provided online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/bou/ArapahoeCntyEASChange>

The shapefiles with the Arapahoe County Partial County boundaries for NWR and EAS are posted online at:

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

Final versions of these shapefiles will be available on March 24, 2026.

Instructions for programming your SAME-equipped NWR receiver with the new partial county SAME Location Codes are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/pca/nwr>

Once established in operations, the boundaries of the Arapahoe County partitions are fixed, unless modified at a later date through a formal change process.

A comprehensive description of PCA and the expansion of PCA to select US counties is online at:

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

WFO Boulder anticipates that additional NWS warnings will use PCA in the future. Any service enhancements will be preceded by a future Service Change Notice.

For questions or concerns on the PCA implementation for Arapahoe 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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