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Public Information Notice
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
140 PM EDT WED May 30 2012

To: Subscribers:
-Family of Services
-NOAA Weather Wire Service
-Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
-NOAAPORT
Other NWS partners and NWS employees

From: Michael J. Szkil
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Subject: Critical Warnings Coming to Wireless Emergency Alerts

Starting today, NWS warnings, watches, advisories, and special statements will be pushed to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Integrated Public Alerts and Warning System (IPAWS), in Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) version 1.2 format. CAP is an industry standard for the exchange of emergency alert information.

On the week of June 18, 2012, FEMA plans to enable the capability for NWS warnings to pass through to the Commercial Mobile Alert System (CMAS), also known as the Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA). NWS CAP messages will be formatted to trigger a warning notification on WEA-capable devices for the following NWS warning types:

- Tsunami Warnings
- Tornado Warnings
- Flash Flood Warnings
- Hurricane and Typhoon Warnings
- Extreme Wind Warnings
- Blizzard and Ice Storm Warnings
- Dust Storm Warnings

The NWS push of CAP to IPAWS is an initial capability. Modifications and improvements are currently planned for the summer of 2012 to maximize performance and reliability. Plans also include enabling NWS CAP messages to pass through IPAWS to the Emergency Alert System (EAS) in late summer 2012.

For information about IPAWS, please visit

<http://www.fema.gov/emergency/ipaws/>

Wireless carriers began rolling out the WEA service across the nation on April 7, 2012. All major wireless carriers and hundreds of smaller carriers are taking part in WEA on a voluntary basis. For more information about WEA and a list of participating carriers, see

<http://fema.gov/emergency/ipaws/cmas.shtm>

For information about EAS, please visit

http://www.fema.gov/emergency/ipaws/eas_info.shtm

If you have any questions or comments about NWS participation in IPAWS, please contact:

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National Public Information Notices are online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/os/notif.htm>

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