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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 14-04
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
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To: Subscribers:
-Family of Services
-NOAA Weather Wire Service
-Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
-NOAAPORT
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From: Michael J. Szkil
Chief, Awareness Branch
Performance and Awareness Division
Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services

Subject: NWS Capable of Activating Wireless Emergency Alerts for
Tsunami Warnings Effective January 31, 2014

As of Friday, January 31, 2014, NWS is capable of activating Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) capable cell phones for the most critical Tsunami Warnings. With this capability, NWS will activate WEA for Tsunami Warnings in situations where a Tsunami Watch or Tsunami Advisory was not previously in effect.

This capability is a first step toward enabling WEA activation for all Tsunami Warnings by May 2014.

On June 28, 2012, NWS began disseminating its most critical warnings to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) for broadcast on WEA capable cell phones.

The NWS also activates WEA for:

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

NWS is also developing future capabilities that will allow activation of WEA for weather and hydrologic events based on expected event impact rather than by warning type alone.

All major wireless carriers and hundreds of smaller carriers are taking part in WEA on a voluntary basis. To find out if your phone is WEA-capable or if you have other questions related to the receipt of WEA on your cell phone, please contact your wireless carrier or check the link:

<http://ctia.org/wea>

For information about WEA as related to the NWS, please visit:

<http://weather.gov/wirelessalerts>

For general information about WEA, please visit:

<http://www.fema.gov/wireless-emergency-alerts>

For information about FEMA IPAWS, please visit:

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

For questions or comments about NWS participation in IPAWS or WEA, please contact:

Mike Gerber
Emerging Dissemination Technologies Program Lead
NOAA/National Weather Service
Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services
Silver Spring, MD
301-713-0090 x170
Mike.Gerber@noaa.gov

For information about the NWS Tsunami Program, please visit:

<http://www.tsunami.gov/info.php>

For Tsunami related questions or comments, please contact:

Michael Angove
Tsunami Program Lead
NOAA/National Weather Service
Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services
Silver Spring, MD
301-713-1858 x106
Michael.Angove@noaa.gov

Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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