

NOUS41 KWBC 141845 AAA
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 19-101 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
245 PM EST Fri Feb 14 2029

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

From: Mary Mullusky
 Chief, Water Resources Services Branch

Subject: Updated: Implementation of Wireless Emergency Alerts
 (WEA) Changes for Flash Flood Warnings on or after
 February 18, 2020.

Updated implementation date to February 18, 2020, and to specify
only 90-character, English language messages to be made
available on that date.

Beginning on or after February 18, 2020, the NWS will issue
90-character WEA for Flash Flood Warnings (FFW) based on damage
threat tags. Implementation of 360-character English and Spanish
messages will be implemented at a later date to be determined.

WEAs will only be sent for FFWs with a damage threat tag of
either "considerable" or "catastrophic" using the new 90-
character messaging. FFWs labeled with these tags are life-
threatening and require urgent action. Because these tags are
applied to FFWs relatively rarely, this will limit the number of
FFW WEAs distributed. WEAs will also be issued for Flash Flood
Statements that exhibit an increase in damage threat (e.g., base
[no tag] to considerable, base [no tag] to catastrophic, and
considerable to catastrophic).

This change will not affect key information in the FFW segment
header block, including the Valid Time Event Code (VTEC) and
Hydrologic VTEC (H-VTEC) strings, nor will it affect changes to
the existing criteria for warning dissemination. All FFWs will
still be issued and distributed via NOAA Weather Radio, the
Emergency Alert System, on radio and TV broadcasts, Weather.gov
and through dissemination

systems to our emergency managers and partners. Information about the specific changes to WEA Messages for FFWs can be found in the Product Description Document (PDD):

https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_OplWirelessEmergencyAlertMessages_forFlashFloodWarnings_2020.pdf

The characterization of the flash flood damage threat, source information and causative event, along with examples of FFWs in Impact-Based Warnings (IBW) format, are contained in the PDD:

https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/IBWforFlashFloods_2019.pdf

Based on feedback from the public survey referenced in the notice:

https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pns19-31ffw_wea.pdf

and approvals for the broader IBW effort, NWS is proceeding to implement the WEA changes for FFWs.

WEA is a joint effort between the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the wireless industry that allows emergency alerting authorities to geographically target emergency messages to mobile devices (primarily cell phones). The NWS will provide messages to WEA for hazards believed to be life-threatening and that have consequences that can be mitigated or minimized by immediate action. More information about WEA can be found at:

<https://www.weather.gov/wrn/wea>

NWS has also solicited public feedback on a proposed expansion of weather warnings to the new 360-character maximum and the proposed content of the NWS messages carried by WEA in English and Spanish. Based on the positive feedback received, we have now finalized those messages. Please see Service Change Notice 19-43 for more details on 360-character FFW WEA messages in English and Spanish:

https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/scn19-43wea_360aab.pdf

For more information, please email:

kate.abshire@noaa.gov

National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

NNNN