



NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards Service Changes and Emergency Alert System Information

Phased NWS implementation begins on or about January 3, 2018

New operational NWS warning services on NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) will begin at select WFOs effective on or about January 3, 2018. Additional Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) will have the capability to issue these warnings later in 2018. Further WRN updates will be provided.

Snow Squall Warning

The first short-fused, polygon-based **Snow Squall Warnings** will be issued by the following WFOs: Detroit, MI; Binghamton, NY; Buffalo, NY; Pittsburgh, PA; State College, PA; Burlington, VT; and Cheyenne, WY.

Issuance criteria: Snow Squall Warnings are issued for intense, but limited duration, periods of moderate to heavy snowfall, accompanied by gusty surface winds resulting in reduced visibilities and whiteout conditions. Snow accumulation may be significant. Rapidly falling temperatures in conjunction with the snow can cause dangerous impacts to transportation. Regional variation to this definition is expected.

NWR Service Enhancements:

NWS will broadcast the Snow Squall Warning on NWR and disseminate using the Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) and 1050 Hz Warning Alarm Tones.



The Snow Squall Warning will be disseminated using the Severe Weather Statement /SVS/ NWR SAME/Emergency Alert System (EAS) Event Code.

Note that the SVS Event Code is not unique to the Snow Squall Warning. If you have a SAME-equipped receiver (including Public Alert™ receivers) and a Snow Squall Warning is issued for any portion of a SAME-programmed county, most receivers will function as follows:

- The receiver will process the SVS Event Code.
- Receivers with a menu to select the warnings activating a device will include the SVS option.
- Receivers with a text screen will display “**Severe Weather Statement.**”
- Receivers with color-coded, alert level indicators for Statements, Watches and Warnings will activate the **Statement** indicator.

NWS policy has not changed concerning the Severe Weather Statements traditionally issued to follow up Severe Thunderstorm and Tornado Warnings. These statements will **not** be disseminated using the SAME and 1050 Hz Warning Alarm Tones and will not be sent to EAS.



EAS Service Enhancements:

WFOs will engage with their respective State Emergency Communications Committees, emergency management agencies and broadcaster associations to answer questions and discuss the possible addition of the SVS Event Code to the state’s EAS Plan.

**Since 2003, the FCC required
broadcasters’ EAS encoder/decoder**

equipment to accept and process the SVS Event Code.

However, equipment may need to be modified, through minor firmware or software updates, to properly forward the EAS messages; if EAS equipment is not updated and the WFO requests EAS activation using these Event Codes, it is possible the information will be received as an “UNKNOWN” Event Code and the EAS will not activate.

Please direct dissemination questions to Tim Schott, NWS Dissemination Services, at Timothy.Schott@noaa.gov or 301-427-9336; policy questions to David Soroka, NWS Winter Weather Program Lead, at David.Soroka@noaa.gov or 301-427-9346; and for details specific to your area contact your local Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM). WCM contact information is online at: www.stormready.noaa.gov/contact.shtml

Related Websites

NWR Home Page

www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/

NWS EAS Information

[www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/info/eas_descripti
on.html](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/info/eas_descripti
on.html)

NWS Service Change Notices

[http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notification/sc
n17-112snow_dustaab.htm](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notification/sc
n17-112snow_dustaab.htm)