## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** Date: Thursday, May 13, 2021 Contact: Daniel Berc, Las Vegas Weather Forecast Office, National Weather Service <u>daniel.berc@noaa.gov</u>, 702-263-9753

## More targeted delivery of weather warnings coming to Clark County New location codes for NOAA Weather Radio will limit unnecessary weather warnings

The National Weather Service will begin using partial county alerting in Clark County on June 1, 2021. What does that mean?

Clark County is very large – over 8,000 square miles – and weather warnings are currently disseminated on a whole county basis often warning people outside of the weather threat. To address this issue, the National Weather Service is moving to <u>partial county alerting</u> for two dissemination channels, the <u>Emergency Alert System</u> (EAS) and <u>NOAA Weather Radio</u> for Clark County. The goal: deliver weather warnings to only those who are under or near an imminent threat.

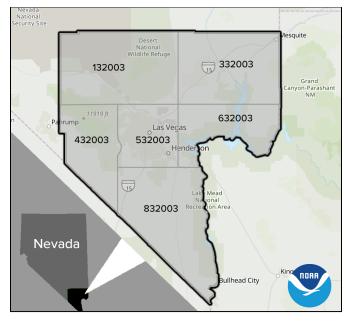
"Hazardous weather in our area doesn't usually span the entire county. Therefore, we are taking steps to limit and hopefully eliminate unnecessary weather warnings to residents far from the threat," said Dan Berc, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, National Weather Service forecast office in Las Vegas. "By dividing Clark County into six areas, we are able to deliver weather warnings to smaller more targeted areas; to those who need to know so they can take action."

The move to partial county warnings will also reduce unnecessary interruptions to television programming caused by county-wide EAS activation. In the future, if you hear the EAS attention tone and see the text scroll on your TV, heed the warning because the threat is nearby. Warnings that activate EAS and NOAA Weather Radio include, a Tornado Warning, Severe Thunderstorm Warning, Dust Storm Warning, Flash Flood Warning, and Flash Flood Statement (when a warning is extended).

Starting June 1, cable companies, commercial television and radio providers, and NOAA Weather Radio listeners in Clark County can limit reception of weather warnings to any number

of the six partitioned areas of the county. If a NOAA Weather Radio listener wants to receive warnings only for one area, they simply program their radio using the 6-digit code for that area. "We encourage NOAA Weather Radio users and broadcasters to make this simple change so they can receive the weather warnings that are most relevant to them and their audiences," said Berc.

> Six new "<u>Specific Area Message Encoding</u>" location codes for Clark County, Nevada will provide more targeted delivery of weather warnings to the public. Program/reprogram your NOAA Weather Radio today!

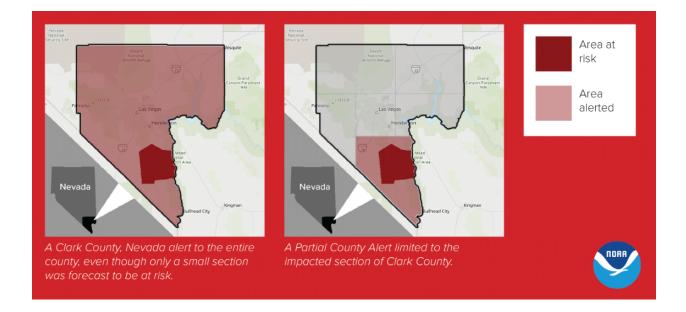


NOAA Weather Radio is the voice of the National Weather Service. Having it in your home and workplace could save your life. It is the fastest and most reliable means of receiving alerts when hazardous weather approaches. NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts severe weather warnings in your community 24/7, giving those in harm's way critical lead time to respond. These broadcasts can be heard using specially built radios and on some scanners. Partial county alerting makes NOAA Weather Radio even more valuable to those in Clark County.

Implementing partial county alerting has been a significant undertaking for the Las Vegas forecast office. The proposal was coordinated and agreed upon by the Nevada State Emergency Communications Committee, the Nevada Broadcasters Association, Clark County emergency managers, state and local government officials, as well as with the <u>Federal Communications</u> <u>Commission</u>, which regulates the EAS.

Partial county alerting is specific to the EAS and NOAA Weather Radio. There will be no change in the dissemination of weather warnings posted on the <u>National Weather Service website</u>, <u>Wireless Emergency Alerts</u>, the Emergency Managers Weather Information Network and NOAA Weather Wire Service.

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