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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 23-82
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
510 PM EDT Wed Jul 19 2023

To: Subscribers:
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
 -NOAAPort
 Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From: George Jungbluth
 Acting Director, Office of Dissemination

Subject: Changes to NWS Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Message Availability via the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS): Effective on or after July 20, 2023

Effective on or after July 20, 2023, NWS will discontinue transmission of the full suite of NWS CAP version 1.2 (v1.2) messages to IPAWS and begin transmitting only those CAP messages to IPAWS that are intended for activation or deactivation of Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA). The CAP messages that will be sent to IPAWS will represent a small subset of NWS alerts and there will be inconsistencies with the full NWS CAP feed.

This change mitigates an issue for some NWS alerts that do not activate WEA via IPAWS, which began following a recent IPAWS system update.

Users of NWS CAP messages for non-WEA purposes should use NWS-direct sources for the full feed of NWS CAP messages as detailed at:

<https://vlab.noaa.gov/web/NWS-common-alerting-protocol>

These NWS-direct sources include pull capabilities from the NWS Application Programming Interface (API), and HTTP (Hypertext Transfer Protocol) and File Transfer Protocol (FTP) listings. They also include push capabilities from NOAAPort. The pros and cons of using CAP from these channels are detailed on this page.

Users may also wish to view all NWS alerts in CAP format at:

<https://alerts.weather.gov>

WEA is a joint effort between the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), FEMA and the wireless industry allowing public safety authorities to send geographically-targeted emergency messages to cell phones. The NWS conveys messages to WEA for life-threatening hazards and those hazards deemed high impact with consequences that can be mitigated or minimized with immediate action by message recipients.

FEMA's IPAWS is the interface between alerting authorities and the private sector communications industries that convey emergency alerts to people. In addition to wireless providers for WEA, FEMA's IPAWS connects to Emergency Alert System (EAS) radio and television providers and other public communications providers. IPAWS serves as the only pathway for NWS and other alert originators to request that Commercial Mobile Service Providers activate WEA.

More information about WEA can be found at:

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

For general questions about WEA or CAP, please contact:

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Information on NWR can be found at:

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

Information on other NWS dissemination systems can be found at:

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

For questions regarding CAP development or functional aspects of the change, please contact:

Matt Davis
Project Manager for NWS CAP Message Processing
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To report urgent operational CAP-related issues, please contact:

NCEP Central Operations
Operational Monitoring Branch
nco.ops@noaa.gov
301-683-1518

For media-related questions, please contact:

NWS Office of Public Affairs
Email: nws.pa@noaa.gov

National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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