

Wireless Emergency Alerts Save Lives

Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) are alert messages sent to your mobile phone during an emergency. No sign-up is required.

Patrick Winter, owner of Red Barn Farm near Northfield, MN, was hosting his mother's 77th birthday party on September 28, 2018, one of the most prolific tornado days in the state's history.

Amid the celebration, Winter and his family received continued Wireless Emergency Alerts from the National Weather Service about an incoming tornado. The 13 people (and one dog) in attendance sought shelter immediately; minutes later, the tornado struck, demolishing the Big Red Barn.

Winter said the alerts "saved my entire family, otherwise we'd have been gone; a mile down the road with the rest of the barn."



What Kind of Alerts?

WEA are sent only during an emergency. They are sent by government alerting authorities through your mobile carrier.

Types of alerts include:

- Extreme weather warnings
- Local emergencies requiring evacuation or immediate action
- AMBER Alerts
- Presidential Alerts during a national emergency

The National Weather Services sends WEA messages for:

- Dust Storm Warnings
- Extreme Wind Warnings
- Flash Flood Warnings*
- Hurricane/Typhoon Warnings
- Severe Thunderstorm Warnings*
- Snow Squall Warnings
- Storm Surge Warnings
- Tornado Warnings
- Tsunami Warnings

** High-damage threat Warnings only*

WEA messages are relevant to your location – you only receive WEA messages when you and your cell phone are in the area of the emergency. If you visit another city, you will only receive alerts for that location and not your home town.



What Do the Alerts Look Like?

WEA will look like a text message. The WEA message will typically show the type and time of the alert, any action you should take, and the government agency issuing the alert.

WEA messages include a special tone and vibration, both repeated twice.

What Should I Do If I Receive an Alert?

Follow any action advised by the emergency message. Seek more details from your favorite TV or radio station, NOAA Weather Radio, news website, desktop application, mobile application, or other trusted source of information.

Do I Need to Sign Up for WEA?

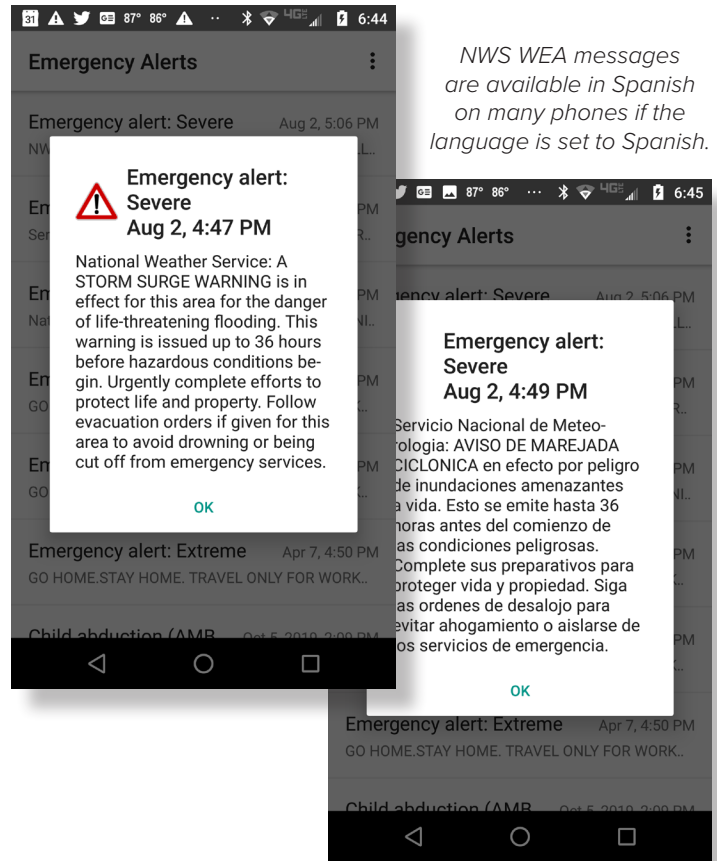
NO! No signup is required! Alerts are sent automatically to WEA-capable phones during an emergency. WEA is free! No need to download an app.

How Do I Know WEA is Enabled on My Phone?

Many new cell phones are WEA-capable. Prepaid mobile devices may also be WEA-capable. For information about which mobile devices are WEA-capable and carrier participation, please contact your wireless carrier. And don't turn them off! Keep them on to ensure that you receive alerts for severe weather and other emergencies.

For More Information

More than 100 mobile carriers, including all of the largest carriers, participate in the WEA program. For information, contact your wireless carrier.



NWS WEA messages are available in Spanish on many phones if the language is set to Spanish.

