



WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERTS

A nationwide system providing lifesaving information for the state of California

Alerting Authorities FAQs

1. What Are Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs)?

Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs) are used to send concise, text-like messages to WEA-capable mobile devices during emergency situations.

2. What types of alerts are sent using WEAs?



Presidential Alerts

Issued during a national emergency



Imminent Threat Alerts

Issued for extreme weather and other threats to life or property in your area



AMBER Alerts

Issued for the abduction of a child in your area

3. What does a WEA message look like?

A WEA message looks like a short text message accompanied by a special tone and vibration. The WEA message will show:

- **Who** is sending the alert
- **What** is happening
- **Who** is affected
- **What** action to take

4. How does my organization send WEAs to the public?

The Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) is the only way emergency managers can send Wireless Emergency Alerts.

Through a partnership between the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and commercial mobile service providers, alerting authorities are able to use IPAWS to send WEAs, even when cellular networks are overloaded and can no longer support person-to-person calls, texts, or e-mails.

5. Which organizations are eligible to send alerts through IPAWS?



Federal Agencies



State Government
Organizations



Territorial
Governments



Tribal
Governments



Local
Government

6. How can I tell if my organization is already set up to use IPAWS?

Visit www.fema.gov/integrated-public-alert-warning-system-authorities to see a current list of organizations already approved or currently going through the approval process to use IPAWS. If your organization is not on that list, begin the steps to sign up for IPAWS so you can begin sending Wireless Emergency Alerts.

7. What type of alerts can we send through IPAWS?

- Wireless Emergency Alert System (WEAs) Public Alerts
- Emergency Alert System (EAS) Public Alerts
- Commercial Mobile Alert System (CMAS) Public Alerts
- National Weather Service All-Hazards Emergency Message Collection System (HazCollect)
- Internal Private Alerts from IPAWS users to other IPAWS users

8. Will my organization be charged by wireless carriers for sending WEAs?

No. Alerting authorities will not be charged by wireless carriers for sending WEA messages.

9. How do we sign up for IPAWS?

Visit www.calalerts.com to view the steps of the IPAWS approval process.

10. Where can I learn more?

www.calalerts.com

www.fema.gov/integrated-public-alert-warning-system

Stay Connected. Be Informed.

Visit www.calalerts.org
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