

# Wireless Emergency Alert Capabilities by Cellular Handset and Wireless Provider

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Most wireless providers support Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) but how a device handles a WEA is dependent upon manufacturer make and model, and the WEA version it supports. This guidance will explain the different WEA versions and provide links to some wireless provider websites that list WEA capabilities by manufacturer make and model.

## WEA Versions and Supported Capabilities

### WEA 1.0

- Supports 90-character WEA text
- Three alert classes (National, AMBER, Imminent Threat)
- Geo-fencing based upon best approximation to a polygon or circle contained within a WEA

### WEA 2.0

- Supports 90- and 360-characters
- Supports optional Spanish language
- In addition to three classes listed above, allows for Public Safety and WEA Test categories

### WEA 3.0

- Supports Device Based Geo-Fencing (DBGF), an application running on the handset that allows the device to know if it is within a polygon/circle, or at least 0.10 mile outside, in order to display the alert, warning or notification to the user.

Note: At this time the effect on DBGF is not fully known if location services are disabled on the device.

## Wireless Provider Websites

The following are some wireless provider websites that list WEA capabilities by WEA version and manufacturer's product. FEMA IPAWS does not maintain these websites and is not informed when these web-sites are updated.



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### AT&T Wireless

- <https://www.att.com/support/article/wireless/KM1009041/>

### Cricket Wireless

- [WEA Capable Phones | Apps & Services | Cricket \(cricketwireless.com\)](#)

### T-Mobile Wireless

- <https://www.t-mobile.com/responsibility/consumer-info/safety/wireless-emergency-alerts>

### U.S. Cellular Wireless

- <https://www.uscellular.com/support/FAQ/wireless-emergency-alerts>

### Verizon Wireless

- <https://www.verizon.com/support/wireless-emergency-alerts-faqs/>

## IPAWS Recommendations

- Visit wireless provider sites regularly to obtain updated information
- Make sure you perform regular software updates to your device
- Other wireless provider sites may contain applicable information
- Contact your wireless provider or device manufacturer for more information

The IPAWS Technical Support Services Facility is staffed 24/7 with subject-matter experts experienced in emergency management, public safety communications, public works, and broadcasting, ready to assist Alerting Authorities with IPAWS needs. Phone: 1-84-IPAWSLab / 1-844-729-7522  
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*The Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) is FEMA's national system for local alerting that provides authenticated emergency and life-saving information to the public through mobile phones using Wireless Emergency Alerts, to radio and television via the Emergency Alert System, and on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Weather Radio.*

