



Is Your Cell Phone WEA Capable?... *and How Accessible Is it?*

Wireless Emergency Alerts, or WEAs, are free messages sent by public safety officials directly to your cell phone, warning you about severe weather, AMBER Alerts, and threats to safety in your area. Use this fact sheet to find out if your phone is able to receive WEA messages, and find links to mobile accessibility resources for people with access and functional needs.

Buyers

1. Check packaging:

WEA capable phones will have the following logo on the packaging or instructions.



If you do not see the WEA logo, it may still be WEA capable. Try one of the steps listed below.

2. Ask the sales representative:

“Do you know if this phone can receive Wireless Emergency Alerts?”

If the sales representative is not sure, ask to look through the phone’s settings. (See step 3).

Owners

3. Check your phone:

Older phones may not be WEA capable, and some cell phone models require you to enable WEAs. WEA may be accessed in the one of the following menu:

- Apps
- Settings
- Messages/Messaging

4. Check the user manual:

Most mobile service providers call these messages WEAs, but some manufacturers refer to them as:

- Government Alerts, or
- Emergency Alert Messages

5. Check with your mobile provider:

- All major phone providers, and some smaller providers, participate in WEA.
- Review the [Federal Communications Commission registry of WEA providers](#)
- For provider information on WEA, go to: [CTIA The Wireless Association](#). For more WEA information, go to: www.fema.gov/ipaws/

6. How accessible is the phone?

Mobile accessibility refers to mobile device applications and resources for people with access and functional needs. Some resources on the accessibility of mobile phones include:

- [Global Accessibility Reporting Initiative](#)
- [CTIA Access Wireless](#)
- [Wireless Accessibility Resources](#)

The Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) is a national alert and warning infrastructure available for use by federal, state, local, tribal and territorial public alerting authorities to send emergency alerts to the public. For more information or additional questions, contact the IPAWS Project Management Office at ipaws@fema.dhs.gov.