



Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) TIP #4: Placing Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) into Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Messages

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IPAWS is now capable of sending URLs, i.e. hyperlinks, in messages. URLs can be used to provide additional information that will not fit into a 90 character WEA text, which can provide your community with further direction in preparation or response to your message.

When copying and pasting a URL into a CAP message, it is best to use an application like Windows Notepad. Programs such as Notepad only place the text of the URL, and do not include hidden underlying data. If copied and pasted from an application like Windows Word, the URL will come with underlying data which will increase the character count in your message, ultimately making it more likely to post incorrectly.

Newer smartphone models may recognize the text from Notepad as a URL, which will permit a cellular user to click the link and automatically be directed to the website. Older devices may only provide the text, so cellular users with older devices may need to copy and paste the link into a browser to receive the information from the URL.

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