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 cellular 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 can receive WEA messages, and find links to resources for people with access and functional needs.

Buyers

Check for the logo

![WEA Logo](image)

WEA-capable phones will have this logo on packaging, instructions or marketing materials.

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

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 the next step).

Owners

Older phones may not be WEA capable. Some phone models require you to enable WEAs. WEA may be accessed in the one of the following menus:

- Settings
- Notifications
- Messages or Messaging
- Emergency Alerts

Check the user manual

Most wireless providers call these messages Wireless Emergency Alerts, but some manufacturers refer to them as Government Alerts or Emergency Alert Messages.
Check with your wireless provider

All major phone providers, and some smaller providers, participate in WEA. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) lists wireless providers and their levels of participation in WEA. See the FCC WEA page and the WEA Consumer Guide.

Find more information on WEA from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and from CTIA, The Wireless Association.

How accessible is the phone?

Mobile accessibility refers to mobile device applications and resources for people with access and functional needs. Resources on cell phone accessibility include the Global Accessibility Reporting Initiative and CTIA Access Wireless.

WEA is part of FEMA IPAWS, the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System. For more information visit https://www.fema.gov/ipaws. Contact the IPAWS Program Management Office at ipaws@fema.dhs.gov.

IPAWS is a national system for local alerting that provides authenticated emergency alert and information messaging to the public through cell phones and internet applications using Wireless Emergency Alerts, and to radio and television via the Emergency Alert System.