



Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) TIP #13: Alerting in Spanish

May 3, 2019

Beginning in June 2019, Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) will support both English and Spanish language messaging in a single alert. We're calling these new capabilities "WEA 2.0". When creating an alert in Spanish, the alert must also be written in English (90-character English is required, Spanish is optional). This is to ensure that all legacy WEA 1.0 phones will still receive an alert. IPAWS does not provide language translation of alerts; machine and web-based translations are generally not advised unless reviewed by a Spanish speaking individual. Vendors should clearly explain to their users what is required for their specific software when composing an alert in Spanish. The following list may clarify what phones can receive.

- All WEA 1.0 phones can receive 90-character English alerts.
- WEA 1.0 phones set for Spanish can receive the 90-character Spanish alert if present, if not they will receive the 90-character English alert.
- WEA 2.0 phones set for English will receive the 360-character English alert if present, if not they will receive the 90-character English alert.
- WEA 2.0 phones set for Spanish will receive the 360-character Spanish alert if present, if not they will receive the 90-character Spanish alert. If neither the 360 nor 90-character Spanish alert are present, the phone will receive the 90-character English alert.

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