

# IPAWS 101

America's  
System for Local  
Emergency Alerts



## INTEGRATED PUBLIC ALERT & WARNING SYSTEM

### WHAT IS IPAWS ?

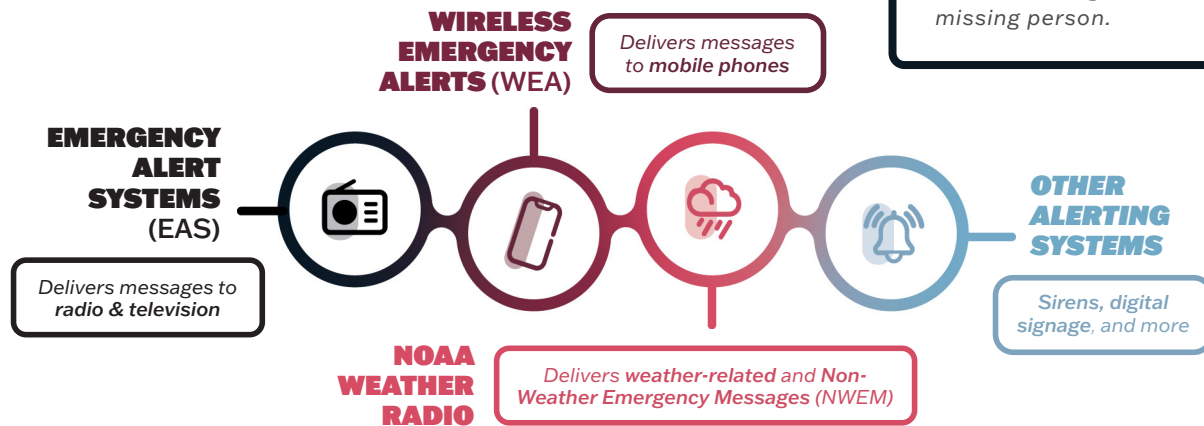
Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) is a tool that Federal, State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial (FSLTT) public safety agencies can use to notify the public of disasters and deliver emergency and public safety information.

FSLTT public safety agencies can sign up to become an **Alerting Authority**.

#### ALERTING AUTHORITY

*A jurisdiction with the designated authority to alert and warn the public when there is an impending natural or human-made disaster, threat, or dangerous or missing person.*

### ALERT PATHWAYS INCLUDE



### BENEFITS OF IPAWS

#### NO SIGN-UP REQUIRED TO RECEIVE ALERTS

There is no need to sign up or subscribe to receive alerts from IPAWS. There is no cost to receive alerts.

#### MINIMAL COST TO ALERTING AUTHORITIES

There is no cost to send or receive alerts through IPAWS. Alerting Authorities may incur costs to purchase compatible alert origination software that meets IPAWS requirements.

#### LOCAL TARGETING

With IPAWS, Alerting Authorities can target specific geographic areas to ensure only those in the affected area, including visitors, receive the alert. The content and timing of alerts is at the discretion of Alerting Authorities. FEMA does not review, edit, approve, or disapprove alerts sent by public safety agencies.

#### LANGUAGE & FUNCTIONAL ACCESSIBILITY

WEA's recipients can currently choose to display alerts in English or Spanish and EAS messages can include multilingual audio. IPAWS also allows for the integration of images and has text-to-speech capability to accommodate those with functional needs.



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[fema.gov/IPAWS](https://fema.gov/IPAWS)

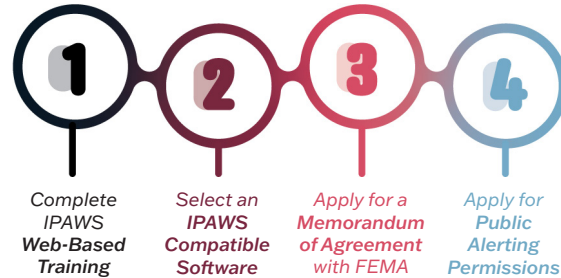
## SIGN UP TO BE AN IPAWS ALERTING AUTHORITY!

**NOTE: BEFORE APPLYING, FIND OUT IF YOU ARE QUALIFIED.**

Consult with your State IPAWS representative (typically found in the State Emergency Management Agency) about your ability to become an IPAWS Alerting Authority. FSLTT governments are eligible to become IPAWS Alerting Authorities. Other public or private-sector organizations may also be eligible depending on their public safety mission.

Detailed instructions for sign-up can be found on the [IPAWS website](#).

**To sign up, you will be asked to complete the following:**



### KEY SUCCESS POINTS

**1,800+**

There are currently **1,800+** IPAWS Alerting Authorities.

**130+**

AMBER Alerts via IPAWS have led to the recovery of more than **130** missing children.

**600**

Through IPAWS, over **600** WEA alerts are sent per month.

### IPAWS IN ACTION

#### MASSACHUSETTS 11-YEAR-OLD ONE OF MANY RECOVERED THANKS TO AMBER ALERT

After a stranger forced an 11-year-old girl in Springfield, Massachusetts into his vehicle, an AMBER Alert was promptly sent out, spurring the community in to action. An outpouring of videos and pictures of the suspected kidnapper and his vehicle flooded in, providing detectives with invaluable information that led to the safe recovery of the girl and the arrest of the kidnapper.

#### TORNADO SURVIVORS CREDIT WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERT FOR SAVING THEIR LIVES

Survivors of a deadly tornado had more than luck to thank for their lives. At roughly 3 a.m., in the black of night, a tornado touched down in Bollinger County, Missouri, setting out on a path that left five dead and many injured and homeless. It could have been worse. A WEA sent by officials to all in the tornado's path, allowed many people to seek shelter, potentially saving their lives.

#### POWER BLACKOUTS AVERTED THANKS TO WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERT

Power blackouts can disrupt societies like few other disasters. They can sever communications, water supplies, and transportation; close gas stations, ATMs and grocery stores; prevent the use of medical devices; and cause mass food spoilage. A record-breaking California heatwave led to an extraordinarily high level of energy consumption. The state's power grid was strained and power blackouts were imminent. A critical WEA was sent, asking Californians to "conserve energy now". Within five minutes, energy usage had reduced across the state by nearly 2.4 percent, leaving enough power to prevent disaster.



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