NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS)
and the
Emergency Alert System

- The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) manages the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and has defined numerous weather and non-weather EAS codes for broadcast.

- Except for Presidential messages, EAS is a voluntary system for commercial broadcasters.

- NOAA's National Weather Service generates about 90 percent of EAS activations, primarily for short-duration weather warnings and watches. NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) uses the same digital protocols as EAS, and is the primary means for NWS to activate EAS.

- NWR also broadcasts non-weather emergency messages (NWEMs) such as Evacuation Warnings and AMBER alerts over NWR. These NWEMs originate with local, state, or Federal emergency management agencies and are broadcast over NWR at their request, through existing Memorandums of Understanding or state or local EAS plans.

- Visit https://www.weather.gov/nwr/eventcodes for a list of the various weather and non-weather EAS event codes which are sent over NWR.

- Visit https://www.weather.gov/nwr/counties for the County and Independent City geographic codes and Marine area codes that you can program into your NWR receiver. These Specific Area Message Encoder (SAME) codes will allow you to receive EAS alerts for particular area(s) of interest.

- NWS invites your comments on EAS dissemination and NWR. Please send them to:

  Tim Schott, NWS Dissemination Services Manager, at Timothy.Schott@noaa.gov

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Related NWS Websites

NWS Home Page .... www.weather.gov
NOAA Weather Radio All-Hazards Home Page ....www.weather.gov/nwr
NWS EAS Information Web Page...www.weather.gov/nwr/eas_description
FCC EAS Web Page ....www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/emergency-alert-system-eas

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