Transition Guide for NWS-produced CAP v1.2

Revision History

Date	Revision Descirption
11/30/2016	Initial document
3/7/2016	Added new severe weather related parameters coming around April 2017 - eventMotionDescription - windGust - hailSize - tornadoDetection - tornadoDamageThreat - waterspoutDetection

Purpose: This guide is intended to assist users in transitioning from use of NWS-produced CAP v1.1 messages to use of NWS-produced CAP v1.2 messages.

Background: CAP v1.2 is designed to be backward compatible with CAP v1.1. However, depending on how you parse and re-use data from NWS-produced CAP v1.1 messages in your services, you may need to make adjustments in order to seamlessly transition those services to use NWS-produced CAP v1.2.

Contained in this guide: This guide focuses on elements and parameters which are either new to NWS-produced CAP v1.2 or where there are notable changes to the element or parameter.

New elements
The following elements are new to NWS-produced CAP v1.2.

<code>
Identifies the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) CAP profile version to which the subject CAP message conforms.

<references>
Included whenever the NWS updates or cancels an alert for which a CAP message has been produced. The value identifies the most recent message to which the current message refers or replaces. Thus, the value should be used to assist in tracking of CAP messages.

<responsetype>
The code (e.g., "Shelter", "Prepare", etc.) denoting the type of action recommended for the target audience.

<eventCode>
Value is a three character code (i.e., SAME event code or other three character code) identifying the event type of the alert message.

<onset>

The expected time of the beginning of the subject event in the alert message. The value may be the same as that for <effective> when the event is already occurring or imminent. The counterpart to <onset> is the new <eventEndingTime> parameter.

<web>
The value is a hyperlink to the NWS home page. However, this could later be used to point explicitly to more detailed information about the alert, such as a graphic or other information.

Changes to existing elements
The following elements have notable changes in NWS-produced CAP v1.2.

<identifier>
The <identifier> value is only intended to be a unique identifier and used for tracking purposes. Do not parse the value and try to extract other meaning from it. The CAP v1.1 <identifier> values had what looked to some as information usable beyond that of being a unique identifier. However, that was not the intent of the value.

<note>
Will no longer be used to identify locations in the alert area. This information can be obtained from the <areaDesc> value. The <note> element will only be present when necessary to describe the purpose or significance of the alert message such as when the <status> is "Exercise", "Test", or when the <msgType> value is "Cancel".

<senderName>
While this value still reflects the name of the issuing NWS office, the actual name given will be slightly different in some cases and no longer include a geographic description of the issuing office's geographic area of responsibility. For example, "NWS Minneapolis (Southern Minnesota)" is now "NWS Twin Cities/Chanhassen MN".

FIPS6 geocode
Renamed as **SAME**. SAME geocodes are the same as FIPS6 geocodes.

New parameters
The following parameters are new to NWS–produced CAP v1.2.

EAS-ORG
The EAS Originator code of the NWS as required by the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) CAP profile.

BLOCKCHANNEL
Used by FEMA's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) as an explicit instruction to block the alert message from passing through IPAWS to dissemination channel described by the value such as CMAS (aka Wireless Emergency Alerts) or EAS.

CMAMtext

Custom text that is passed through FEMA IPAWS and on to wireless carriers for display on mobile devices as a Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA).

eventEndingTime
The expected end time of the subject event in the alert message. This is the time at which the hazard conditions of the subject event are no longer expected. This is the counterpart to the <onset> element.

eventMotionDescription (coming around April 2017)
The position and motion of a hazardous event, such as the position and motion of a tornado or severe thunderstorm.

windGust (coming around April 2017)
Maximum predicted non-tornadic thunderstorm wind speed included with Severe Thunderstorm Warnings, some Special Marine Warnings, some Severe Weather Statements, and some Marine Weather Statements.

hailSize (coming around April 2017)
Maximum predicted hail size included with Severe Thunderstorm Warnings, some Special Marine Warnings, some Severe Weather Statements, and some Marine Weather Statements.

tornadoDetection (coming around April 2017)
Describes whether the tornado is indicated by radar or observed. This is an implied statement of confidence in the evidence that a tornado is occurring.

tornadoDamageThreat (coming around April 2017)
Impact in terms of damage expected from a tornado.

waterspoutDetection (coming around April 2017)
Describes whether the waterspout is observed or possible. This is an implied statement of confidence in the evidence that a waterspout is occurring.