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Public Information Statement 18-36
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
905 AM EST Wed Dec 19 2018

To: Subscribers:
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
 -NOAAPort
 Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From: Douglas C. Young
 Chief, Digital and Graphical Information Support Branch

Subject: NWS Planning to Disseminate Blue Alerts at a Date to be Determined

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) authorized a new Emergency Alert System (EAS) Event Code, BLU, for Blue Alerts in Report and Order 17-170 on December 14, 2017. Blue Alerts are issued by state and territory (hereafter referenced as state) and local officials. BLU warns the public when there is actionable information related to a law enforcement officer who is missing, seriously injured or killed in the line of duty, or when there is an imminent credible threat to an officer.

Each state has unique EAS policies and procedures. If a state chooses to convey Blue Alerts to the EAS, state and local officials may ask the NWS to convey these messages across its systems. The NWS is currently working to provide this capability on its dissemination systems.

Currently and in conjunction with state and local EAS plans, NWS may convey other Non-Weather Emergency Messages (NWEM). For an interim period and when requested by state and local officials, the NWS may convey the information associated with a Blue Alert using an existing NWEM, such as the Law Enforcement Warning (LEW). These messages are conveyed via the NOAA Weather Wire Service (NWWS), the Emergency Managers Weather Information Network (EMWIN), NOAAPort and NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) using Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME).

The NWS will issue a Service Change Notice to announce when NWS has the ability to convey Blue Alerts using World Meteorological Organization (WMO) text products with unique Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System (AWIPS) Identifiers and WMO Headings over NWR using the SAME Event Code of BLU.

If you have any questions regarding the NWS plans to convey Blue Alerts, please contact:

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<https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive>

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