



Important NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards and Emergency Alert System Changes for the Pacific

New Tropical Cyclone Event Codes

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) added three Event Codes for tropical cyclone hazards to the Emergency Alert System (EAS) Rules.

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is the primary means for NWS alerts to activate the EAS. NWS policy and EAS Rules for NWR and EAS, respectively, allow the adoption of the following new weather Event Codes in areas served by the Hawaii, Guam, and American Samoa National Weather Service (NWS) offices:

Extreme Wind Warning Event Code /EWW/

The Extreme Wind Warning is issued for advance notice of sustained surface wind speeds of 115 miles per hour or greater in association with tropical cyclones. NWS offices in Guam and Hawaii currently have the ability to issue this warning, and plans are in place for future implementation in American Samoa.

NWS will request EAS activations using the EWW Event Code /EWW/. NWS will broadcast on NWR and disseminate using the Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) and 1050 Hz warning alarm tones.

Storm Surge Watch

Event Code /SSA/

The NWS offices in Hawaii, Guam, and American Samoa plan to issue the Storm Surge Watch for the possibility of life-threatening inundation from rising water moving inland within the specified area, generally within 48 hours, associated with a tropical, subtropical, or post-tropical cyclone.

NWS may issue this watch earlier when conditions, such as tropical storm-force winds, could reduce the time available for protective actions, such as evacuations. NWS may also issue a watch for locations not expected to receive life-threatening inundation but could potentially be isolated by inundation in adjacent areas.

NWS will broadcast Storm Surge Watches on NWR using the Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) and 1050 Hz warning alarm tones. The NWS may request EAS activation for the Storm Surge Watch when this has been incorporated into state, territorial, and local EAS plans.

Storm Surge Warning Event Code /SSW/

NWS offices in Hawaii, Guam, and American Samoa plan to issue the Storm Surge Warning for the danger of life-threatening inundation from rising water moving inland within the specified area, generally within 36 hours,

associated with a tropical, subtropical or post-tropical cyclone.

The NWS may issue a warning early when other conditions, such as the onset of tropical storm-force winds, are expected to reduce the time available to take protective actions, such as evacuations. The NWS may also issue this warning for locations not expected to receive life-threatening inundation but could potentially be isolated by inundation in adjacent areas.

NWS offices will request EAS activation using the SSW Event Code. NWS will broadcast Storm Surge Warnings on NWR and disseminate using the SAME and 1050 Hz warning alarm tones.

Local NWS offices are now reaching out to their respective Territories, State, and Local Emergency Communications Committees, territorial and state emergency management agencies, and broadcaster associations to answer questions and assist with implementing the new Event Codes. To keep you updated about watch, warning, and EAS changes in your area, your local NWS office may issue Public Information Statements and Service Change Notices, update web pages, and air Public Service Announcements over NWR.



Broadcasters' EAS encoder/decoder equipment must be updated to implement the new Event Codes, generally through firmware and/or software updates.

Broadcasters served by NWS offices in Hawaii, Guam, and American Samoa should contact their EAS equipment manufacturer if they need instructions for updating equipment. If EAS equipment is not updated and the WFO requests

EAS activation using the new Event Codes, the EAS encoder/decoder equipment will usually decode the information received as an "UNKNOWN" Event Code and the EAS will not automatically activate.

Most recently-manufactured SAME-equipped receivers will process the new event codes. The NWS encourages the use of receivers with the Public Alert™ logo. NWR tone alert receivers should activate with the 1050 Hz tone for the warnings.

Please direct any dissemination questions to Tim Schott, NWS Dissemination Services, at timothy.schott@noaa.gov or 301-427-9336; policy questions to Jessica Schauer, NWS Tropical Services Program Manager, at jessica.schauer@noaa.gov or 305-229-4476; or contact the Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM) at your local NWS office for more detailed information. WCM contact information is provided at: <https://www.weather.gov/media/nws/wcm-soo.pdf>

Related Websites

NWS Home Page:
www.weather.gov/

More information on Storm Surge:
<https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/surge/>

NWR Home Page:
<https://www.weather.gov/nwr/>

NWS EAS Information
https://www.weather.gov/nwr/eas_description