
Change to Weather Radio and EAS Will Reduce Over Alerting

By [Tim Schott](#), NWS Analyze, Forecast and Support Office and [Dan Berc](#), WCM, NWS Las Vegas, NV

The public and broadcasters both are frustrated by the Emergency Alert System (EAS) breaking into programming for alerts up to 100 miles away from the area forecasted to have dangerous weather.

The NWS has the ability to limit warnings sent via NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) and the EAS to specific parts of a county, rather than sending these alerts to the entire county. This option is known as Partial County Alerting (PCA).

NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) Las Vegas, NV, will partition Clark County, NV, into 6 parts. Clark County is larger than 5 entire states! The WFO consulted with Emergency Managers, state and local government officials, the Nevada State Emergency Communications Committee, broadcasters and the public about this proposal and received overwhelming approval.

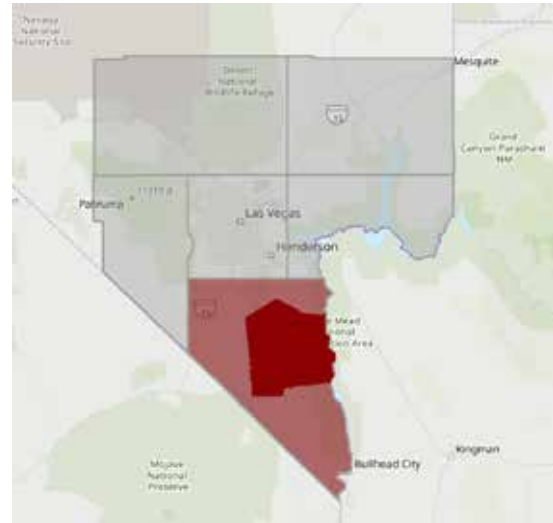
NWS will also be working with local officials and stakeholders interested in using PCA for other counties with unique alerting challenges, such as geographically-large counties; uniquely configured counties, such as those with islands; counties that are uniquely shaped, such as latitudinally or longitudinally elongated; and counties with area-specific climatologies.

Clark County, NV, will be broken into six partitions on June 1, 2021. "Hazardous weather in our area doesn't usually span the entire county. Therefore, we are taking steps to limit and hopefully eliminate unnecessary warnings to residents far from the threat," according to Dan Berc, the Las Vegas Warning Coordination Meteorologist. "By dividing Clark County into six areas, we will be able to deliver weather warnings to smaller, more targeted areas to those who need to know so they can take action."

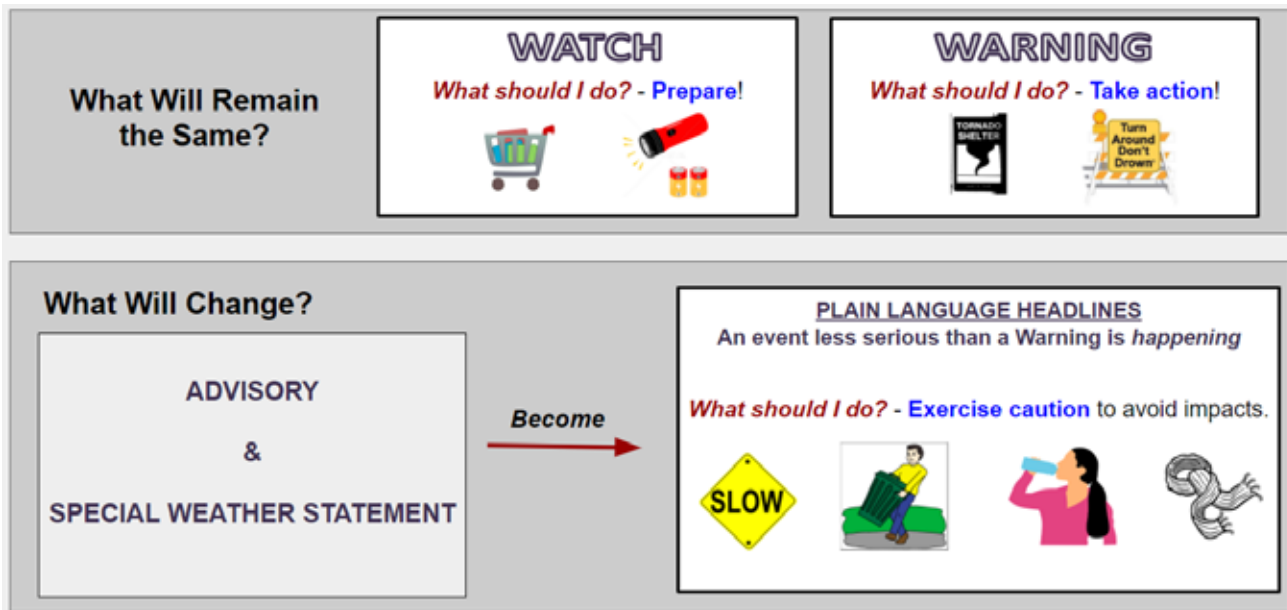
The move to partial county warnings will help reduce unnecessary interruptions to radio and television programming caused by county-wide EAS activation

NWS is encouraging NWR users in Clark County to reprogram their Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME)-equipped NWR receivers with one of the new partition codes so they can limit weather warnings to one or more areas. [Details and outreach materials on the change are on the PCA website.](#)

Please contact [Tim Schott](#) with general PCA questions and [Dan Berc](#), for questions about the Clark County change.



Clark County, NV, is larger than five states. The overwhelming majority of its population is in and around Las Vegas (area in dark red).



A Look to the Future: Planned Major Change to NWS Hazard Messaging Headlines

For more information, contact hazsimp@noaa.gov

The National Weather Service (NWS) will be making changes to its hazard messaging headlines no earlier than calendar year 2024. At the heart of the change will be the removal of all “Advisory” headlines from the Watch, Warning, and Advisory system in favor of clear, plain language headlines focused on impact. These same plain language headlines will also replace current “Special Weather Statements” and be equipped with Valid Time Event Code (VTEC).

This major change will not take place prior to 2024 in consideration of the time needed for public outreach, partner preparation and NWS policy and software development.

This decision is based on years of social science research. This research confirmed a large majority of the public, and even some partners, confuses the term “Advisory” with “Watch”. Removing such confusion is critical to maximize the benefit of our Impact-based Decision Support Services and best serve those who use our headline products.

The exact language to be used in the plain language headlines to replace current Advisories for each affected hazard is still to be determined. NWS will host partner webinars and collect public feedback via on-line surveys to support this decision. Additional Public Information Statements will be issued in the coming weeks to announce these feedback opportunities.

For more information, please review the Public Notification Statement (insert link). Additional details can also be found at the [project website](#) and the team can be contacted at hazsimp@noaa.gov.



Aware

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