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Service Change Notice 21-29
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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To: Subscribers:
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 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
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From: Douglas C. Young
 Chief, Digital and Graphical Information Support Branch

Subject: Implementation of Partial County Alerting via NOAA Weather Radio
All Hazards (NWR) and the Emergency Alert System (EAS) for Clark County,
Nevada: Effective on or about June 1, 2021

Based on positive feedback from the broadcast community, local officials
and the public, NWS will implement Partial County Alerting (PCA) for Clark
County, NV, effective on or about June 1, 2021. The following warnings
from Weather Forecast Office (WFO) Las Vegas are impacted:

Dust Storm Warning
Flash Flood Warning
Severe Thunderstorm Warning
Tornado Warning

NWS disseminates weather warnings via NWR and the EAS. While many NWS
warnings have become more refined in areal extent using forecaster-defined
polygons, they are generally conveyed via NWR and EAS on a whole (entire)
county basis. NWS has the capability to disseminate these warnings via
NWR and EAS for smaller areal sections of counties. NWS refers to these
divisions as county partitions; the Federal Communications Commission
(FCC) refers to them as subdivisions. Sending warnings to NWR and EAS
using partitions is referred to as PCA.

PCA reduces the geographical over alerting of warnings disseminated by NWR
and EAS by more closely associating polygon-defined warnings with county
partitions. With PCA, NWR Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME)-equipped
users can select the county partition(s) for which they will receive
automated alerts. Similarly, PCA allows broadcasters to choose the county
partition(s) to which they will convey NWS warnings through the EAS. PCA
implementation may help limit EAS activation in a given media market. A
comprehensive description of the Clark County implementation is provided
online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/pca/clark>

This website provides details and examples of the new warning format and
instructions and examples on reprogramming NWR SAME-equipped receivers.

The shapefiles with the Clark County Partial County boundaries for NWR and EAS are posted online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/gis/AWIPSShapefiles>

Once established in operations, the boundaries of the Clark County partitions are fixed. Any modifications would require a formal change process.

Additionally, based on positive feedback, NWS is launching a national level PCA initiative briefly described below.

NWS is planning for future dissemination improvements in association with the national level PCA initiative. These proposals will be detailed in a Public Information Statement with opportunity for comment prior to implementation.

NWS will 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. If approved, NWS will precede plans to implement PCA for other counties with public notifications from these WFOs.

For questions or concerns on the PCA implementation for Clark County, please contact:

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For comments or questions on the national level PCA initiative, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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