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Public Information Statement 23-51
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
320 PM EDT Thu Aug 31 2023

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

From: George Jungbluth
 Director, Office of Dissemination

Subject: Information to Assist Users Migrating to NWS-Direct Sources of
 NWS Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Messages, Effective on or
 after July 20, 2023

This Public Information Statement supplements NWS Service Change Notice
(SCN) 23-82 on Changes to NWS Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Message
Availability via the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Integrated
Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS): Effective on or after July 20,
2023 at

https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdf_2023_24/scn23-82_cap_change_for_ipaws.pdf

When this change was implemented on July 20, 2023, NWS discontinued the
transmission of the full suite of NWS CAP version 1.2 (v1.2) messages to
IPAWS and began transmitting only those CAP messages to IPAWS that are
intended for activation or deactivation of Wireless Emergency Alerts
(WEA). As mentioned in SCN 23-82, the change also results in
inconsistencies between the NWS CAP messages transmitted to IPAWS for WEA
and the full suite of NWS CAP messages available from NWS-direct sources.
Therefore, NWS CAP users should not expect to find correlation between the
NWS CAP messages in IPAWS and the full suite of NWS CAP messages available
from NWS-direct sources. CAP users should beware that monitoring both
IPAWS and NWS-direct sources for NWS CAP messages could result in
duplicate alerting.

When processing CAP messages, CAP users should adhere to the Organization
for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS) CAP
standard and handle the CAP message as defined by the value of the CAP
"status" element. For example, a "status" value of "Actual" means the
alert is actionable by all targeted recipients, whereas a "status" value
of "Test" means all recipients should disregard. Failure to properly
handle a CAP message can result in undesirable consequences such as public
confusion and false alarms.

For information about the OASIS CAP v1.2 standard, please visit
<https://vlab.noaa.gov/web/nws-common-alerting-protocol/cap-documentation>

For more information about NWS use of CAP, please visit
<https://vlab.noaa.gov/web/nws-common-alerting-protocol>

For general information regarding NWS use of CAP, please contact:

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For media-related questions, please contact:

Office of Public Affairs
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National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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