

Emergency Alerting Systems

SPRINGFIELD, MA

Emergency Alerting Systems

- ▶ **Receiving advance warnings for severe weather, timely emergency alerts, and information during a disaster is critical to staying safe during an emergency.**
- ▶ **Everybody should have multiple methods for receiving emergency alerts, including at least one with an audible alert to wake you in the middle of the night.**



Public Alerting & Information Systems

- ▶ **Emergency Alert System (EAS)**
- ▶ **Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA)**
- ▶ **NOAA Weather Radio**
- ▶ **Social Media & Traditional Media**
- ▶ **Springfield Resident Alert System**



Emergency Alert System (EAS)

- ▶ **The Emergency Alert System (EAS) is a national warning system that uses radio, television, and satellite channels to broadcast important public safety information during times of emergency.**
- ▶ **When an EAS is issued, you will hear a tone followed by an audio message. Participating television broadcasters will also display a visual message, which might take the form of a scrolling banner or a static slide.**
- ▶ **This system can be used by state authorities to deliver emergency information, such as America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response (AMBER) alerts and severe weather warnings.**
- ▶ **MEMA, under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)'s Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS), has the authority to activate EAS and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)**



Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA)

- ▶ **The Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) program is part of the EAS national alerting initiative, which enables cellphones to receive alerts for severe weather emergencies, imminent threats to life or property, AMBER alerts, and Presidential alerts.**
- ▶ **Most WEAs are issued by the National Weather Service (NWS). These alerts are only used for the most imminent and severe weather conditions, which includes tornados, flash floods, hurricanes, and tsunamis.**
- ▶ **MEMA can also issue a WEA for other imminent threats that meet the requirements set forth by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that were designed to ensure that only the most urgent public-safety messages are sent as a WEA.**
- ▶ **The alerts are delivered on technology that overrides any wireless network congestion and delays and allows the information to target cellphones within the impact area. A WEA alerts users with a special tone and vibration. If you receive a WEA, you should follow the protective actions advised in the message.**
- ▶ **You do not need to subscribe to any service to receive alerts. The alerts are sent to all WEA-enabled devices in the impacted region. To find out whether you have a WEA-enabled phone, you should contact your mobile carrier.**

NOAA Weather Radio

- ▶ **Provides alerts for weather warnings in your area.**
- ▶ **With batteries, a radio can work even when the power is out and can be programmed to provide alerts within your local area.**
- ▶ **Weather radios are a reliable source for severe weather announcements or weather-related emergency information.**



Social Media & Traditional Media

- ▶ MEMA uses [Twitter \(@MassEMA\)](#) and [Facebook](#) to provide preparedness tips as well as information about severe weather, emergency situations, and disasters. MEMA also uses social media as a secondary method of alerting.
- ▶ Traditional local media outlets (such as TV and radio stations) are another source for emergency alerts and information.



Local Notification Systems

- ▶ **Springfield Resident Alert Program** - When Springfield issues a notification about a potential safety hazard or concern, you will receive a message on the voice or text communication methods that you have registered.
- ▶ **Springfield Parking Ban** – Issued for major snow events to expedite snow removal operations.
- ▶ **Mass DOT** - Variable message boards and private sector digital billboards can be used to provide information during emergencies.



Post - Event Emergency Communications

- ▶ **Social Media & Traditional Media**
- ▶ **Springfield 3-1-1** - In Springfield dial 3-1-1 for non-emergency city services, or (413) 736-3111 outside Springfield.
- ▶ **Massachusetts 2-1-1** - Mass 211 responds immediately during times of crisis, to field calls regarding the crisis and to direct callers to services most appropriate for their needs.
- ▶ **Flyers & Handbills**
- ▶ **Neighborhood Meetings**
- ▶ **Police & Fire Loudspeaker Announcements**

