



REF: FEMA IPAWS Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) Request support:

As a major IPAWS Alert Origination Tool provider, we feel that the addition of a WEA Test Code would be beneficial in many ways. Our clients, mainly emergency managers from across the country, feel that it is important to validate the process in a test mode in order to provide them with the level of confidence in the IPAWS WEA System. It will also allow them to practice perishable alert and warning skills so that during a crisis, they can quickly alert and warn their citizens. We further believe that this WEA Test mode will provide considerable feedback to the Cellular Providers through lessons learned from the testing process. It will allow the IPAWS system to grow and become more and more beneficial for all, the providers, the citizens and the public safety officials.

We further request that you strongly consider significantly increasing the number of characters from the current limit of 90 to somewhere in the 300 range. In a life safety situation- the public needs concise messages and sufficient detail. The current 90 character limit is not enough to provide sufficient live safety information to the public that is physically located in the hazardous area. This action will undoubtedly save many lives in the future.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Don Hall, CEM
Director of Government Relations
Emergency Communications Network