

Date: December 9, 2015
From: Eric Brewer
Subject: Proposed WEA Changes

Section III, A, 1, paragraph 9: Expanding the WEA message length from 90 to 360 characters to allow for more detailed information to be distributed. Limiting characters of a message, limits the information to the public thus delaying decisions that may save lives and protect property.

Section III, A, 1, paragraph 13: Attempting to accommodate new and legacy implementations would be confusing and the message would be inconsistent if alert originators had to provide both 90 and 360 character messages.

Section III, A, 2, paragraph 19: I would agree on only “appropriate agencies” become authorized to issues messages and this approach should be adopted. As with IPAWS, you have to become an “alerting authority”, you could apply the same here. General safety messages should not be included as we have to worry about desensitizing the public when important messages are given.

Section III, A, 3, paragraph 25: I would encourage adding URLs as this would allow the public to get additional information on the situation.

Section III, C, 1, paragraph 50:

Testing must be done on a consistent basis. This should be a requirement for a participating CMS provider. The benefit of testing ensures that the system as well as it’s end users are familiar with the process.