



Fact Sheet: Tsunami Warnings via Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)

NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS) will activate Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) capable cell phones for Tsunami Warnings.

Tsunami Warnings only: The NWS will activate WEA for Tsunami Warnings. [Tsunami Information Statements, Advisories, and Watches](#) will not be sent via WEA, but will be available on tsunami.gov and all other NWS dissemination systems.

NWS will activate WEA on first issuance of a Tsunami Warning, including upgrade to a Warning if a Tsunami Watch or Tsunami Advisory was issued about an event previously.

First warning only: Only the first Tsunami Warning in a specific area will activate WEA. Tsunami warning continuation or cancellation messages will not activate WEA. This information will be available on tsunami.gov and all other NWS dissemination systems.

Tsunami WEA message: The length and language of the message received on a particular device will be dependent on the wireless network and the language setting of the device. Messages will be *up to* 360 characters on 4G LTE networks and beyond. WEA message length will be a maximum of 90 characters on 3G and earlier networks. The wording for these messages was selected after a rigorous review process that took into account that areas under Tsunami Warning usually span multiple counties/boroughs and state borders and tsunami waves will reach shorelines at different times.

[The latest versions of these short and long messages are linked here.](#)

WEA-enabled mobile devices will receive messages within a FIPS-code warning area: While tsunami warnings are issued for NWS zones, NWS zones are not understood by WEA. Tsunami WEA activation will target the FIPS code (i.e., county level). Polygons closer to coastlines to describe the warning area more precisely will not be used until a software-based solution to address device-assisted geotargeting limitations on the number of polygons and vertices is developed and implemented. However, the WEA message will include information about tsunami danger being on the coast to convey the actual warning area for WEA recipients.

More information: Please visit the [Wireless Emergency Alert page](#) on the National Weather Service website or contact your local [National Weather Service Forecast Office](#).