

WA-PAWS – Tab B7	Event Codes and Guidance	9.14.21
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EAS Event Codes Used in Washington						
Event Code	Event Name	Originators ⁶	Recommend Priority	Recommended Hold Time	Relay Required	Address
EAN ^{1, 3}	Emergency Action Notification	PEP	High	Immediate	Yes	000000 ⁷
NIC ¹	National Information Center	PEP	Low	15 min	No	000000 ⁷
NPT ^{1, 3}	National Periodic Test	PEP	Low	Immediate	Yes	000000 ⁷
RMT ^{1, 3}	Required Monthly Test	Civ, Wxr	Low	60 m Brdcast 3 hr Originator ⁸	Yes	All Counties in Local Area
RWT ¹	Required Weekly Test	PEP, Civ, Wxr	Log only		No	All Counties in Local Area
ADR ⁴	Administrative Message	Civ	Low	15 min	No	Covered Counties ⁹
AVW	Avalanche Warning	Civ, Wxr	Low	15 min	No	Covered Counties
BZW	Blizzard Warning	Wxr	Medium	15 min	No	Covered Counties
CAE	Child Abduction Emergency	Civ	High	15 min	No	Covered Counties
CDW	Civil Danger Warning	Civ	Medium	15 min	No	Covered Counties
CEM	Civil Emergency Message	Civ	High	Immediate	No	Covered Counties
DMO ⁵	Practice/Demo	Civ, Wxr	Log only		No	All Counties in Local Area
DSW	Dust Storm Warning	Wxr	Medium	15 min	No	Covered Counties
EQW	Earthquake Warning	Civ	Low	15 min	No	Covered Counties
EVI	Evacuation Immediate	Civ	High	Immediate	No	Covered Counties
FRW	Fire Warning	Civ, Wxr	High	Immediate	No	Covered Counties
FFW	Flash Flood Warning	Civ, Wxr	High	Immediate	No	Covered Counties
FFA	Flash Flood Watch	Civ, Wxr	Low	15 min	No	Covered Counties ⁹
FLW	Flood Warning	Wxr	Medium	15 min	No	Covered Counties ⁹
HMW	Hazardous Material Warning	Civ	High	Immediate	No	Covered Counties
HWW	High Wind Warning	Wxr	Medium	15 min	No	Covered Counties
LEW	Law Enforcement Warning	Civ	Medium	15 min	No	Covered Counties
LAE	Local Area Emergency	Civ	Low	15 min	No	Covered Counties
TOE ⁵	911 Telephone Outage Emergency	Civ	Medium	15 min	No	Covered Counties

NUW	Nuclear Power Plant Warning	Civ	High	Immediate	No	Covered Counties
DMO ⁵	Practice/Demo	Civ, Wxr	Log only		No	All Counties in Local Area
RHW	Radiological Hazard Warning	Civ	High	Immediate	No	Covered Counties
SVR	Severe Thunderstorm Warning	Wxr	High	15 min	No	Covered Counties
SVA	Severe Thunderstorm Watch	Wxr	Low	15 min	No	Covered Counties ⁹
SPW	Shelter in Place Warning	Civ	High	Immediate	No	Covered Counties
SMW	Special Marine Warning	Wxr	High	Immediate	No	Covered Counties
TOR	Tornado Warning	Wxr	High	Immediate	No	Covered Counties
TOA	Tornado Watch	Wxr	Low	15 min		Covered Counties
TOE ⁵	911 Telephone Outage Emergency	Civ	Medium	15 min	No	Covered Counties
TSW	Tsunami Warning	Wxr	High	Immediate	No	Covered Counties
TSA	Tsunami Watch	Wxr	Medium	15 min	No	Covered Counties
VOW	Volcano Warning	Civ	High	Immediate	No	Covered Counties
WSW	Winter Storm Warning	Wxr	Medium	15 min	No	Covered Counties ⁹

Notes

1. National event codes are shaded.
2. State and local event codes are un-shaded. Relaying these codes is voluntary, not required by FCC rules. State and local alerts may not be delayed more than 15 minutes. See FCC 11.51(n).
3. Events shown as *relay required* are mandatory to be broadcast within the hold time shown. This is governed by FCC rules. See FCC 11.51(m).
4. ADR Administrative Message is used to cancel a CAE Child Abduction Emergency.
5. These codes are duplicated on the list because they fall out of alphabetical order, depending upon which column you search by.
6. Originators are Primary Entry Point (national), Civil Authorities (state and local), and National Weather Service.
7. The location code for a nationwide alert is six zeroes, *effective July 30, 2016*.
8. Broadcasters must relay an RMT within 60 minutes. Originators should use a 3 hour expiration time when sending an RMT.
9. "Counties Covered" means all counties served by the signal coverage of the station. That may include more or fewer counties than those in the *Local Area* as defined by the state EAS plan.

**Event Codes Not Used
In Washington**

Event Code	Event Name
AVA	Avalanche Watch
CFW	Coastal Flood Warning
CFA	Coastal Flood Watch
EWV	Extreme Wind Warning
FFS	Flash Flood Statement
FLA	Flood Watch
FLS	Flood Statement
HWA	High Wind Watch
HUW	Hurricane Warning
HUA	Hurricane Watch
HLS	Hurricane Statement
NMN	Network Message Notification
SSA	Storm Surge Watch
SSW	Storm Surge Warning
SVS	Severe Weather Statement
SPS	Special Weather Statement
TRW	Tropical Storm Warning
TRA	Tropical Storm Watch
WSA	Winter Storm Watch

Non-Weather Related EAS Emergency Event Code Descriptions

Introduction

This section provides the recommended definitions of non-weather related events. Most of these event codes are self-explanatory, yet are explained to ensure consistency of use by all EAS message originators.

Below are descriptive guidelines used for 17 non-weather related EAS emergency events. These guidelines were adapted from a National Weather Service (NWS) working group, the Houston Local Emergency Communications Committee and NWS Directive 10-518 (www.nws.noaa.gov/directives).

Message Description Guidance

This guidance was provided by the State Emergency Communication Committee (SECC) and Local Emergency Communication Committees (LECC) and local authorized EAS message originators are encouraged to follow these guidelines to provide statewide and national consistent use of these codes.

A warning or watch is normally issued only once to provide initial notification (alert) of the event. A new warning or watch should be issued if the hazard or recommended public protective action(s) has expanded into another county or geographic zone, or if the valid time has been extended. All other updates or cancellations of the event should be sent as a non-emergency Administrative Message (ADR) or by other means (e.g., telephone, fax, e-mail, or media briefings) to local news media outlets.

Administrative Message (ADR)

A non-emergency message that provides updated information about an event in progress, an event that has expired or concluded early, pre-event preparation or mitigation activities, post-event recovery operations, or other administrative matters pertaining to the Emergency Alert System. A good example for use of this event code is cancellation of an Amber Alert.

Avalanche Watch (AVA)

A message issued by authorized officials when conditions are forecast to become favorable for natural or human-triggered avalanches that could affect roadways, structures, or backcountry activities.

Avalanche Warning (AVW)

A warning of current or imminent avalanche activity when avalanche danger is considered high or extreme. Authorized officials may recommend or order protective actions according to state law or local ordinance when natural or human-triggered avalanches are likely to affect roadways, structures, or backcountry activities.

Child Abduction Emergency (CAE)

An emergency message, based on statewide established criteria, about a missing child believed to be abducted. A local or state law enforcement agency investigating the abduction will describe the missing child, provide a description of the suspect or vehicle, and ask the public to notify the requesting agency if they have any information on the whereabouts of the child or suspect. For cancellation of an Amber Alert, use the ADR event code.

Civil Danger Warning (CDW)

A warning of an event that presents a danger to a significant civilian population. The CDW, which usually warns of a specific hazard and gives specific protective action, has a higher priority than the Local Area Emergency (LAE). Examples include contaminated water supply and imminent or in-progress military or terrorist attack. Public protective actions could include evacuation, shelter in place, or other actions (such as boiling contaminated water or seeking medical treatment). If cancellation of a CDW is needed, use the ADR event code.

Civil Emergency Message (CEM)

An emergency message regarding an in-progress or imminent significant threat(s) to public safety and/or property. The CEM is a higher priority message than the Local Area Emergency (LAE), but the hazard is less specific than the Civil Danger Warning (CDW). For example, the CEM could be used to describe a

change in the Homeland Security alert System level in response to a terrorist threat. If cancellation of a CEM is needed, use the ADR event code.

Earthquake Warning (EQW)

A warning of current or imminent earthquake activity. Authorized officials may recommend or order protective actions following an earthquake according to state law or local ordinance.

Evacuation Immediate (EVI)

A warning where immediate evacuation is recommended or ordered according to state law or local ordinance. As an example, authorized officials may recommend the evacuation of affected areas and where to move due to an approaching tsunami. In the event a flammable or explosive gas release, authorized officials may recommend evacuation of designated areas where casualties or property damage from a vapor cloud explosion or fire may occur.

Fire Warning (FRW)

A warning of a spreading wildfire or structural fire that threatens a populated area. Evacuation of areas in the fire's path may be recommended by authorized officials according to state law or local ordinance.

Hazardous Materials Warning (HMW)

A warning of the release of a non-radioactive hazardous material (such as a flammable gas, toxic chemical, or biological agent) that may recommend evacuation (for an explosion, fire or oil spill hazard) or shelter in place (for a toxic fume hazard). If cancellation of a HMW is needed, use the ADR event code.

Law Enforcement Warning (LEW)

A warning of a bomb explosion, riot, or other criminal event (e.g. a jailbreak). An authorized law enforcement agency may blockade roads, waterways, or facilities, evacuate or deny access to affected areas, and arrest violators or suspicious persons. If cancellation of a LEW is needed, use the ADR event code.

Local Area Emergency (LAE)

An emergency message that defines an event that by itself does not pose a significant threat to public safety and/or property. However, the event could escalate, contribute to other more serious events, or disrupt critical public safety services. Instructions, other than public protective actions, may be provided by authorized officials. Examples include: a disruption in water, electric or natural gas service, road closures due to excessive snowfall, or a potential terrorist threat where the public is asked to remain alert. If cancellation of a LAE is needed, use the ADR event code.

911 Telephone Outage Emergency (TOE)

An emergency message that defines a local or state 911 telephone network outage by geographic area or telephone exchange. Authorized officials may provide alternative phone numbers in which to reach 911 or dispatch personnel.

Nuclear Power Plant Warning (NUW)

A warning of an event at a nuclear power plant classified such as a Site Area Emergency or General Emergency as classified by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). A Site Area Emergency is confined to the plant site; no off-site impact is expected. Typically, a General Emergency is confined to an area less than a 10-mile radius around the plant. Authorized officials may recommend evacuation or medical treatment of exposed persons in nearby areas. If cancellation of a NUW is needed, use the ADR event code.

Radiological Hazard Warning (RHW)

A warning of the loss, discovery, or release of a radiological hazard. Examples include: the theft of a radioactive isotope used for medical, seismic, or other purposes; the discovery of radioactive materials; a transportation (aircraft, truck or rail, etc.) accident which may involve nuclear weapons, nuclear fuel, or radioactive wastes. Authorized officials may recommend protective actions to be taken if a radioactive hazard is discovered. If cancellation of a RHW is needed, use the ADR event code.

Shelter in Place Warning (SPW)

A warning of an event where the public is recommended to shelter in place (go inside, close doors and windows, turn off air conditioning or heating systems, apply plastic and duct tape to doors, windows and vent openings) and turn on a radio, NOAA Weather Radio or TV for more information). An example is the release of hazardous materials where toxic fumes or radioactivity may affect designated areas. If cancellation of a SPW is needed, use the ADR event code.

Volcano Warning (VOW)

A warning of current or imminent volcanic activity, including lahars. Authorized officials may recommend or order protective actions according to state law or local ordinance.