



Working Group 2

Wireless Emergency Alerts

Status Update

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WEA Working Group Objectives

The Working Group is reviewing the FCC's current Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) rules, taking into account:

(1) experiences with WEA since its deployment on April 7, 2012 (including those of WEA industry participants, the Federal Gateway operator and alert originators),

(2) technological advances since the original WEA technical recommendations were submitted by the Commercial Mobile Service Alert Advisory Committee (CMSAAC) in 2007, and

(3) other factors, as appropriate,

and develop recommendations for CSRIC's consideration for any necessary changes to ensure that WEA continues to serve as a valuable method to alert the public during an emergency.



WEA Working Group Objectives

The Working Group will examine specific issues such as:

- education,
- geographic targeting,
- testing,
- device settings for different alerts,
- message content and character limitation,
- other potential types of WEA alerts,
- accessibility of WEA alerts to people with disabilities and non-English speakers, and
- security.



WEA Working Group Approach

- Many of the objectives of the WEA Working Group address issues raised by the CMSAAC for further study post-WEA rollout.
- The Working Group is addressing *more than the underlying technology issues alone*. We are examining alert originator participation and function for sending alerts to prevent overuse or abuse of imminent threat alerts.
- The Working Group is studying lessons learned since the April 2012 public launch of WEA.

WEA Working Group Status

- The WEA WG consists of 28 members, representing diverse interests, including alert originators, federal government WEA partners, technology vendors, broadcasters, and wireless industry participants with subject matter expertise to accomplish the objectives set forth above.
- Initial meetings have featured stakeholder presentations addressing current WEA capabilities, success stories, and consumer and alert authority responses to WEA.



WEA Working Group Schedule

- The WEA WG has held several calls on a near-weekly basis and has created two initial Sub-Working Groups to address priority deliverables.

1. Testing Sub-Working Group; and
2. Geographic Targeting, Message Content and Character Limitation.

- These Sub-Working Groups are holding separate meetings and reporting back to the full WG.



Next Steps

- Anticipate recommendations from Testing and Geographic Targeting, Message Content and Character Limitation Sub-Working Groups for March 2014 full CSRIC meeting.
- Schedule face-to-face meeting after New Year.
- Continue with weekly calls.
- Provide periodic status updates to Steering Committee and full CSRIC.

