



Emergency Alerts and Warnings

Los Angeles County Code 2.68 outlines the authority of Chief Executive Officer, the Sheriff, the Fire Chief, and the County Director of Public Health to issue alert and warning notifications to the public. Additionally, the CEO Office of Emergency Management is authorized to coordinate consistency of emergency notifications. Since no one method of public alert and warning can adequately cover the various demographic, cultural, environmental, and technological needs of our entire community the County continues explore additional alert and warning platforms. Current alert and warning platforms include:

- Emergency Alert System (EAS)
- Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA)
- **Non-Weather Emergency Messages (NWEM)**
- Mass Notification System (AlertLACounty)
- Websites and Social Media
- Field Notifications

Weather Radio Alerts

In 2021, the County conducted research, planning, testing, and developed procedures to expand emergency alert and warning capability in coordination with the National Weather Service. This new resource extends the County's existing platform that uses phone, email, and text to include radio broadcasts on NWS frequencies. Residents with personal weather radios at home can receive alerts about fires and other threats including dangerous weather conditions. Weather radios that have a battery back-up are not fully dependent on the same infrastructure (power, internet, cell tower) as phone, email, and text-based systems.

Weather Radio Alerts (formally known as NWEMs) are distributed through a nationwide network of radio stations that broadcast warnings for all types of natural hazards. The local NWS Office is responsible for approving and broadcasting NWEMs created by local authorities.



Los Angeles County **OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

County Weather Radios

Los Angeles County has leveraged grant funds to acquire a limited number of Weather Radios for distribution to residents. Weather radios distributed through this program are prioritized for residents living in high fire hazard areas where cellphones coverage is limited, and who are otherwise not able to obtain one for their own personal use. Weather radios available through the LA County distribution program are branded with the LA County logo and remain the property of the County. Adaptive devices for residents who are hard of hearing are available by request.