



Be Informed!

As smartphones have become ever more common, there are many new ways to stay informed before, during and after critical events in your community.

- Download an App! - these are just two of the many possibilities
 - FEMA - for both Apple, Android and Blackberry devices, has weather warnings, nearby shelter and contact details, and safety reminders
 - Red Cross – for both Apple and Android, there is a whole suite of apps including notifications for various events, basic first aid, where to be a blood donor and many more. Their “Emergency: Alerts and Notifications” app consolidates many of the different alerts into a single app.
- Contact your city or county emergency agencies, usually via their websites, to find out how they transmit alerts. Many now have the capability to do this by text message and/or email but you generally must sign up to receive them.
- If your smartphone is “WEA” capable, watch for “Wireless Emergency Alerts”, an update of the old Emergency Alert system we used to see and hear on radio and TV. This upgrade is a push feature from FEMA/Ready.gov that looks like a text message, but has special sounds and colors to catch your attention. These include “amber” alerts, probably the most common thing you might see. If your phone is capable, you will receive these automatically, no need to sign up and at no charge. Check with your wireless provider about the “WEA” feature.