

# Wireless Emergency Alerts

Wireless Emergency Alerts are government emergency messages sent to individual wireless cellular devices through FEMA's messaging infrastructure known as the **Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS)**. The alerts are issued under the following categories:

1. Emergency threats and threatening weather
2. Amber Alerts
3. Presidential Alerts during a national emergency

WEA messages include a special tone and vibration to differentiate them from other messages that can be received on your cell phone. The messages can be generated by governmental agencies at the federal and local level based on a set of rules and regulations. Cell phone carriers pass the WEA messages onto all subscribers. There are no messaging charges to receive these messages.

Cell phones must contain special circuitry to receive WEA messages. Phones manufactured after 2012 will likely have the circuitry to receive WEAs. Older phones cannot be retrofitted to receive these messages. **If you have one of the newer phones capable of receiving alerts, you most likely do not need to take any action to receive these messages.** Phones can be configured so they do not receive emergency and amber alerts, if desired, by making the appropriate adjustments in the phone's settings file. Presidential alerts cannot be turned off, however.

For additional information about Wireless Emergency Alerts, refer to:

<https://www.fema.gov/frequently-asked-questions-wireless-emergency-alerts>

In addition, Clare County Emergency Management in Harrison sends local weather emergency text messages through a free service offered through Nixle.com. Clare County Emergency Management recommends that all residents and those who spend time in Clare County sign up for emergency texts at <https://local.nixle.com/register/> or by texting your zip code to 888777.

## The following actions are recommended

1. Determine if your phone is capable of receiving government Wireless Emergency Alert messages. Contact your phone service provider if you need assistance with this.
2. Sign up to receive Clare County Emergency Management text messages for weather and emergency threats by visiting <https://local.nixle.com/register/> and providing the required information, or by texting your zip code to 888777.

Eight Point Lake Property Owners' Corporation

May 2016