

Civil Danger Warning (CDW)

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A warning of an event that presents a significant danger to a civilian population which is not covered by a more specific event code. The CDW, which usually warns of a specific hazard and gives specific protective action. Examples include contaminated water supply and imminent or in-progress military or terrorist attack. Public protective actions usually are a combination of actions such prepare to act, avoid the hazard, shelter in place, partial evacuation and seek medical treatment.

State/Local CDW Alerts

1) Dam or Levee Failure

Dam and levee failure involves the overtopping, breach, or collapse of the dam or levee. Dam and levee failure is especially destructive to nearby development during flood and hurricane events. If a large dam or levee were to fail suddenly, everything and everyone downstream of the failure would have little or no warning of the impending flooding. There would be little or no time to enact manual flood protection for those facilities and structures that have such protection; all unprotected structures would remain vulnerable.

[A Guide to Public Alerts and Warnings for Dam and Levee Emergencies](#)

2) Terrorism

Note: EAS and WEA warnings are based on the potential consequences of the attackers' actions, not on the motivation of the attackers which is unlikely to be immediately known. Alerts about conventional non-military attacks will typically use Law Enforcement Warning (LEW).

Alerts covered by CDW include, but not be limited to, attacks involving weapons of mass destruction, such as CBRNE incidents. It is intended for imminent or continuing terrorist attacks requiring immediate public protective actions. After an attack, news media will likely be covering the incident. Post-attack information should be distributed through normal news channels.

3) Unsafe Water Alert (UWA) – “Do Not Drink”

Note: Use CDW for confirmed or likely (greater than 50% certainty) public water supply contamination. Preventative, i.e. in an abundance of caution, unsafe water advisories should use Civil Emergency Message (CEM), Local Area Emergency (LAE) or non-emergency alert communication channels depending on potential impact.

In the event a water quality emergency due to known or suspected chemical (non-bacteriological) contamination to a water system a UWA or “Do Not Drink” should be issued. Water should not be used for drinking and cooking, but may be used for sanitation purposes (e.g. toilet flushing, clothes washing, etc.). Examples of these situations include:

- a) Known or suspected widespread chemical or hazardous contamination in water supply distribution
- b) Threatened or suspected acts of sabotage confirmed by analytical results
- c) Emergency use of an unapproved source to provide a supplemental water supply

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<http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/pdf/emergency/drinking-water-advisory-communication-toolbox.pdf>

Attention: The sample in this template does not include all items required by EPA's Public Notification Rule in order to meet the two-minute EAS time limit and maximize conciseness, clarity and correctness for audio listeners. EAS alerts must be supplemented by press releases and additional public outreach.

4) Unsafe Water Alert (UWA) – “Do Not Use”

Note: Use CDW for confirmed or likely (greater than 50% certainty) public water supply contamination. Preventative, i.e. in an abundance of caution, unsafe water advisories should use Civil Emergency Message (CEM), Local Area Emergency (LAE) or non-emergency alert communication channels depending on potential impact.

In the event a known or suspected contamination event to a water system, where the contaminate may be chemical, biological or radiological a UWA or “Do Not Use” should be issued. Water should not be used for drinking, cooking, or sanitation purposes. This is the most severe-level of Unsafe Water Alerts. Such warnings are rare because of the risks associated with the lack of water for sanitation and fire protection.

- a) Known or suspected widespread chemical or hazardous contamination in water supply distribution, including but not limited to
 - i) Terrorist contamination event.
 - ii) Threatened or suspected acts of sabotage confirmed by analytical results.
- b) Ruptured water distribution system (storage tanks, mains) in area of known chemical spill coupled with loss of pressure.
- c) Inability of existing water treatment process to neutralize chemical contaminants prior to entering the distribution system.

<http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/pdf/emergency/drinking-water-advisory-communication-toolbox.pdf>

Attention: The sample in this template does not include all items required by EPA's Tier 1 Public Notification Rule in order to meet the two-minute EAS time limit and maximize conciseness, clarity and correctness for audio listeners. EAS and WEA alerts must be supplemented by media releases and additional public outreach.

Federal, in coordination with States, CDW Alerts

1) Lethal Chemical Agents and Munitions

Lethal chemical agent and munitions incidents, which may be a military accident or terrorist attack. Although many hazardous materials are lethal, these are designed to have a significant impact or be exceptionally dangerous.

The two remaining U.S. Army chemical stockpile stockpiles are secured at the Blue Grass, KY. and Pueblo, CO., U.S. Army installations. Each community has developed its capabilities to respond to a potential chemical agent release and provides its residents important emergency preparedness information.

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2) Space Debris Reentry

Space debris includes rocket bodies, satellites, platforms, or other objects launched by any country. Most debris burns up during reentry, however some objects, owing to their size and structure, survive reentry and impact the surface of the earth. There may be sightings and soundings (sonic booms) associated with the reentry. Regional, multi-state warnings are likely because precise impact predictions are not possible because of the shape and attitude of the object and atmospheric conditions at the time.

3) Other Military Incidents

Department of Defense policy, responsibilities, and procedures for the prompt release of information to the public in the interest of public safety, and to prevent public alarm in the event of accidents or significant incidents involving nuclear weapons or nuclear components, radioactive material, nuclear weapon launch or transport vehicles (when a nuclear weapon is aboard), or nuclear reactors under DoD control.

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Emergency Alert System Elements

Originator Code (ORG):	CIV	Civil Authority
Event Code (EEE):	CDW	Civil Danger Warning
Location Codes (PSSCCC):	PSSCCC	Locations included in alert area
Duration (HHMM):	0300	3 Hours

Common Alerting Protocol Elements

Category: Safety
Event: Civil Danger Warning
Response Type: Avoid

Urgency: Immediate Expected Future Past Unknown
Severity: Extreme Severe Moderate Minor Unknown
Certainty: Observed Likely Possible Unlikely Unknown

Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) Text (90 characters or less including spaces):

Description of the hazard Location of the emergency Recommended action (urgency) Expected expiration if known	Dangerous [Event/Hazard] in [Short Area/City/County/State]. Avoid area.
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Computer Headline (140/160 characters or less including spaces):

Recommended action (urgency) Description of hazard Location of emergency Expected expiration if known	Emergency warning. Avoid area due to dangerous [Event/Hazard] occurring in the [Area/City/County/State] area
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Description (Instruction + Description should be 1500 characters or less and under 200 words):

Lead sentence briefly stating the official source, hazard and location.	The [Official Government Agency] has issued an emergency warning because of a dangerous [Event/Hazard] occurring in the [Area/City/County/State] area.
Why do people need to act?	At [Incident Time] [Day], [Official Source] reported [Describe the incident, hazard and its consequences].
Where is the emergency taking place?	This warning impacts people in [Area/City/County/State], including [Describe location by reference to obvious geographic features, such as roads and rivers, rather than with abstract descriptions such as a one-mile radius of some intersection. The preferred method of describing the area should use compass directions and neighborhood and landmark names where appropriate.] People in other areas of [Area/City/County] are not affected at this time.

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Instruction (Instruction + Description should be 1500 characters or less and under 200 words):

What should people do?	Emergency personnel are currently responding to this incident and local officials are monitoring the situation. To keep yourself safe and avoid impeding the emergency response, please avoid this area until further notice.
When do people need to act? (next update, expiration)	The [Event Type] remains in effect until further notice. This message will be updated in [Message Duration], or sooner if needed.
Closing.	For more information, check www.[Official Web Site].gov , or tune to local news media. Please do not call [9 1 1], except to report a serious emergency.

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Emergency Alert System Elements

Originator Code (ORG):	CIV	Civil Authority
Event Code (EEE):	CDW	Civil Danger Warning
Location Codes (PSSCCC):	054005, 054011, 054015, 054035, 054039, 054043, 054045, 054079, 054087	Boone, Cabell, Clay, Jackson, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Putnam, and Roane, WV
Duration (HHMM):	0300	3 Hours

Common Alerting Protocol Elements

Category: Env
Event: Civil Danger Warning
Response Type: Avoid

Urgency: Immediate Expected Future Past Unknown
Severity: Extreme Severe Moderate Minor Unknown
Certainty: Observed Likely Possible Unlikely Unknown

Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) Text (90 characters or less including spaces):

Description of the hazard	[Test] Tap water unsafe
Location of the emergency	in Charleston metro area.
Recommended action (urgency)	Do not use, drink, cook, bathe or wash.
Expected expiration if known	

Computer Headline (140/160 characters or less including spaces):

Recommended action (urgency)	[Test] Do-Not-Use water order issued
Description of hazard	due to chemical spill affecting public water supply
Location of emergency	in the greater Charleston metropolitan area
Expected expiration if known	

Description (Instruction + Description should be 1500 characters or less and under 200 words):

Lead sentence briefly stating the official source, hazard and location.	[This is a test.] The Governor of West Virginia has issued a Do-Not-Use water order for the greater Charleston metropolitan area because a dangerous chemical spill contaminated the public drinking water supply.
Why do people need to act?	On January 9, an estimated 10,000 gallons of an industrial chemical, 4-Methylcyclohexanemethanol (M.C.H.M.), spilled into the Elk River just upstream from the Kanawha County municipal water intake in Charleston, West Virginia. People may notice a sweet smell, like Licorice, in the water. Symptoms include nausea, vomiting and rashes.
Where is the emergency taking place?	This impacts all public water customers of the West Virginia American Water company in the Charleston, West Virginia metropolitan area including portions of Boone, Clay, Jackson,

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	Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Putnam, and Roane counties and the Culloden area of Cabell County.
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Instruction (Instruction + Description should be 1500 characters or less and under 200 words):

What should people do?	For your safety, you should not to use, drink, cook with, bathe, or wash with tap water from West Virginia American Water public water supply until further notice.
When do people need to act? (next update, expiration)	The Do-Not-Use tap water warning remains in effect until further notice. This message will be updated in 3-hours, or sooner if needed.
Closing.	For more information, check www.AMWater.com , or tune to local news media. Please do not call 9 1 1, except to report a serious emergency. [This concludes this test.]

Note: This sample alert is based on statements by West Virginia American Water and the Office of Governor of West Virginia during the incident. This sample alert reflects only partial information was available at the time, and that initial reports are not 100% accurate.

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Emergency Alert System Elements

Originator Code (ORG):	CIV	Civil Authority
Event Code (EEE):	CDW	Civil Danger Warning
Location Codes (PSSCCC):	005000, 022000, 048000	Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas
Duration (HHMM):	0600	6 Hours

Common Alerting Protocol Elements

Category: Safety
Event: Civil Danger Warning
Response Type: Avoid

Urgency: Immediate Expected Future Past Unknown
Severity: Extreme Severe Moderate Minor Unknown
Certainty: Observed Likely Possible Unlikely Unknown

Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) Text (90 characters or less including spaces):

Description of the hazard	[Test] Space shuttle hazard
Location of the emergency	across Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas.
Recommended action (urgency)	Avoid debris. Do not touch.
Expected expiration if known	

Computer Headline (140/160 characters or less including spaces):

Recommended action (urgency)	[Test] Do not touch space shuttle debris.
Description of hazard	Debris may contain hazardous chemicals
Location of emergency	across Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana
Expected expiration if known	

Description (Instruction + Description should be 1500 characters or less and under 200 words):

Lead sentence briefly stating the official source, hazard and location.	[This is a test.] At the request of NASA, the Governors of Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana have issued this emergency alert about potential dangers from space shuttle debris.
Why do people need to act?	At 9 a.m., Central Time, the NASA space shuttle Columbia broke up over north central Texas. Pieces from the shuttle may contain dangerous chemicals.
Where is the emergency taking place?	Pieces from the space shuttle may have fallen in a large area from north central Texas, to Arkansas, and Louisiana.

Instruction (Instruction + Description should be 1500 characters or less and under 200 words):

What should people do?	For your safety, you should not touch any pieces found from the space shuttle. Please report their location to local emergency services or government authorities. Recovery of all pieces of the shuttle is important for the investigation of the accident.
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<p>When do people need to act? (next update, expiration)</p>	<p>The space shuttle debris warning remains in effect until further notice. This message will be updated in 6-hours, or sooner if needed.</p>
<p>Closing.</p>	<p>For more information, check www.NASA.gov, or tune to local news media. Please do not call 9 1 1, except to report a serious emergency. [This concludes this test.]</p>

Note: This sample alert is based on news reports of NASA statements shortly after the accident. This sample alert reflects only partial information was available at the time, and that initial reports are not 100% accurate.

SAMPLE