

Law Enforcement Warning (LEW)

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A warning of a bomb explosion, riot, or another criminal event (e.g. a jailbreak) that alone pose a significant danger to public safety and/or property. An authorized law enforcement agency may blockade roads, waterways, or facilities, evacuate or deny access to affected areas, and arrest violators or suspicious persons.

The LEW event code should be used for those events that alone pose a significant threat to public safety and/or property, probability of occurrence and location is high, and the onset time is relatively short.

- Use the Civil Emergency Message (CEM) code for Blue Alerts, a suspect wanted for killing or seriously injuring a police officer, or the code specified in the state Blue Alert plan.
- Use the Local Area Emergency (LAE) code for Be-On-Look-Out advisories for dangerous fugitives, area curfews, travel bans, etc.

1) Active Shooter and Mass Casualty Attacks

This is a general term intended to cover active shooter and mass killing incidents involving one or more subjects who participate in a random or systematic shooting spree, demonstrating their intent to continuously harm others. AS/MCIs range from extensively planned terror-related events to unplanned, revenge-motivated or random events. EAS and WEA community warnings are based on the consequences of the attackers' actions, not on the motivation of the attackers which is unlikely to be immediately known.

EAS and WEA community alerting guidelines include:

- Large geographic incident, incidents with mobile perpetrators, or sequenced attacks
- Perimeter has not been established, and threats are not neutralized
- Likely (greater than 50% certainty) secondary devices at main and unknown secondary scenes

Contained active shooter and mass casualty incidents, e.g. in a single building, usually do not require EAS and WEA warnings. Location specific alerting channels should also be used, such as university campus or military base mass notification systems, building public address systems, etc.

https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/active_shooter_guide.pdf

Law Enforcement Warning (LEW)

Emergency Alert System Elements

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

Common Alerting Protocol Elements

Category: Safety
Event: Law Enforcement Warning
Response Type: Execute

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	<i>[Severity] [Event/Hazard] [Certainty]</i>
Location of the emergency	in <i>[Short Area/City/County/State]</i> .
Recommended action (urgency)	<i>[Recommended Action] [Urgency]</i>
Expected expiration if known	until <i>[hh:mm][am/pm]</i> .

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

Recommended action (urgency)	<i>[Recommended Action] [Urgency]</i>
Description of hazard	due to <i>[Severity] [Event/Hazard] [Certainty]</i>
Location of emergency	in the <i>[Area/City/County/State]</i> area
Expected expiration if known	until <i>[hh:mm] [a.m./p.m.] [Day]</i> .

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

Lead sentence briefly stating the official source, hazard and location.	The <i>[Official Government Agency]</i> has issued a Law Enforcement Warning because a <i>[Severity] [Event/Hazard]</i> is <i>[Certainty]</i> in <i>[City] [State]</i> .
Why do people need to act?	At <i>[Incident Time] [Day]</i> , <i>[Describe the incident, hazard and its consequences]</i> .
Where is the emergency taking place?	This impacts people in <i>[Area/City/County/State]</i> including <i>[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.]</i> People in other areas in <i>[Area/City/County]</i> are not affected at this time.

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

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What should people do?	For your personal safety, you should <i>[Urgency]</i> <i>[Recommended actions and extended instructions]</i>
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 for a serious emergency.

SAMPLE

Law Enforcement Warning (LEW)

Emergency Alert System Elements

Originator Code (ORG):	CIV	Civil Authority
Event Code (EEE):	LEW	Law Enforcement Warning
Location Codes (PSSCCC):	026077	Kalamazoo county MI
Duration (HHMM):	0300	3 Hours

Common Alerting Protocol Elements

Category: Safety
Event: Law Enforcement 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] Kalamazoo county MI: Shooter alert.
Location of the emergency	White male in 50s. Dark Chevy HHR, chrome wheels
Recommended action (urgency)	
Expected expiration if known	

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

Recommended action (urgency)	[Test] Police looking for white male in 50s; driving a dark
Description of hazard	Chevy HHR, chrome wheels, mirrors.
Location of emergency	Multiple shootings in Kalamazoo county.
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 Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety has issued a Law Enforcement Warning due to a shooter killing multiple people in Kalamazoo County Michigan.
Why do people need to act?	
Where is the emergency taking place?	Since 5:45 p.m. this evening, an unknown suspect has killed 6 people in apparently random shootings at three different places in Kalamazoo county. The shooting locations include the Meadows Townhomes on Meadows Boulevard in Richland township, the Seelye Kia Dealership on Stadium Drive in Kalamazoo, and the Cracker Barrel restaurant on Cracker Barrel Boulevard in Texas township.
	The suspect is described as a white male in his 50s. He is believed to be driving a dark colored Chevy HHR, with chrome wheels and mirrors. The vehicle may have some damage.
	The suspect is armed and considered dangerous.

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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 be cautious in Kalamazoo county tonight. If you see the suspect, the vehicle, or have information about the shootings; please call the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety at 269-555-1212 or call 9 1 1, immediately.
When do people need to act? (next update, expiration)	The law enforcement 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.KalamazooPublicSafety.org , or tune to local news media. Please do not call 9 1 1, except for a serious emergency; or you have seen the suspect, or the vehicle, or have information about the shootings. [This concludes this test.]

Note: This sample Law Enforcement Warning is based on a Facebook post by the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety during the evening of the incident. This sample alert reflects only partial information was available at the time, and that initial reports are not 100% accurate.

Law Enforcement Warning (LEW)

Emergency Alert System Elements

Originator Code (ORG):	CIV	Civil Authority
Event Code (EEE):	LEW	Law Enforcement Warning
Location Codes (PSSCCC):	048113	Dallas county TX
Duration (HHMM):	0300	3 Hours

Common Alerting Protocol Elements

Category: Safety
Event: Law Enforcement 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] Dallas TX: Shooters/Bomb alert.
Location of the emergency	Downtown business district.
Recommended action (urgency)	Avoid area/Stay inside.
Expected expiration if known	

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

Recommended action (urgency)	[Test] Avoid area and stay inside
Description of hazard	due to multiple police shot and possible bombs
Location of emergency	in Dallas downtown business district 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 Dallas Police Department has issued a Law Enforcement Warning due to the shooting of multiple police officers and possible bombs in Dallas Texas.
Why do people need to act?	At 9 p.m., two snipers shot ten police officers from elevated positions during the protest/rally at Main Street and Lamar in the Dallas downtown business district. Three officers are deceased, two are in surgery and three are in critical condition.
Where is the emergency taking place?	An intensive search for suspects is currently underway. No suspects are in custody at this time. Possible explosive devices are in the Dallas downtown business district area. The suspects are armed and considered dangerous.

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

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What should people do?	For your safety, you should avoid the downtown business district area from Houston Street to Griffin Street; and from Ross Avenue to Jackson Street until further notice. If you see any suspicious packages in the downtown business district or have information about the shootings; please call the Dallas Police Department at 214-555-1212 or call 9 1 1 immediately.
When do people need to act? (next update, expiration)	The law enforcement 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.DallasPolice.net , or tune to local news media. Please do not call 9 1 1, except for a serious emergency; or you see a suspicious package, or have information about the shootings. [This concludes this test.]

Note: This sample Law Enforcement Warning is based on a Facebook posts and Twitter messages by the Dallas Police Department during the evening of the incident. This sample alert reflects only partial information was available at the time, and that initial reports are not 100% accurate.

The sample alert only contains the most important details. News media quickly began covering the incident, however people in the affected area were at the rally and on the parade route, not watching news media. Law enforcement used loud speakers, shouting and tweets to warn the public. WEA and EAS are additional ways to warn the public in the area, and provide an additional confirmation source to shouting by the police on the street.

This incident is borderline for using EAS, i.e., does it impact a large enough geographic area. Other factors at the time, such as the incident was not contained, sniper(s) changing locations, and eventually the threat of improvised explosive devices in unknown locations; may justify interrupting programming for the warning.

Law Enforcement Warning (LEW)

Emergency Alert System Elements

Originator Code (ORG):	CIV	Civil Authority
Event Code (EEE):	LEW	Law Enforcement Warning
Location Codes (PSSCCC):	025009, 025017, 025021, 025023, 025025	Essex county MA, Middlesex county MA, Norfolk county MA, Plymouth county MA, Suffolk county MA
Duration (HHMM):	0300	3 Hours

Common Alerting Protocol Elements

Category: Safety
Event: Law Enforcement Warning
Response Type: Shelter

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] Watertown MA: Bomber/Shooter alert.
Location of the emergency	Watertown and Metro Boston.
Recommended action (urgency)	Stay inside/Avoid travel.
Expected expiration if known	

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

Recommended action (urgency)	[Test] Stay inside and avoid travel
Description of hazard	due to search for Boston Marathon bombing suspects
Location of emergency	in Watertown and Metro Boston 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 Massachusetts is advising residents in Watertown and Metro Boston to stay indoors due to more attacks by the Boston Marathon bombing suspects.
Why do people need to act?	At 10:30 p.m. last night, a M.I.T. police officer was killed in Cambridge. At 1 a.m. this morning, a M.B.T.A. officer was shot in Watertown. One suspect was taken into custody. The other suspect is still on the loose. He is armed, and considered dangerous.
Where is the emergency taking place?	An intensive search for the suspect is currently underway. For your safety, you should stay indoors in Watertown, Waltham, Newton, Belmont, Cambridge, Allston Brighton, and all of Boston.

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

What should people do?	Lock your doors and windows. Only open the door for uniformed police until further notice. You should not travel in, from, or through the area. M.B.T.A. service has been suspended in the area. This includes the Red Line, Green Line, and all bus routes. People outside the area should avoid the area.
When do people need to act? (next update, expiration)	The shelter in place advisory remains in effect until further notice. This message will be updated in 3-hours, or sooner if needed.
Closing.	For more information, check www.CityOfBoston.gov , or tune to local news media. Please do not call 9 1 1, except for a serious emergency; or you see or have information about the suspect. [This concludes this test.]

Note: This sample Law Enforcement Warning is based on WatertownALERT and ALERTBoston messages during the early morning after the Boston marathon bombing suspects shot two police officers and abducted a person in different locations. This sample alert reflects only partial information was available at the time, and that initial reports are not 100% accurate.

The limited space for the WEA and EAS messages is used to tell the public to stay inside. It is not a Be-On-Look-Out alert. The sample alert does not use its limited space for a description of the suspect or many details of the search. The EAS message has some information why (i.e. something changed overnight) and what the public should do. Like the statement by the Governor at the time, the sample alert avoids stating whether it is mandatory or voluntary. Later, officials confirmed it was voluntary.

News media was already covering the incident, but these events happened early in the morning when most people were asleep. The sample WEA, EAS or Telephone alert could wake up people before they left home in the morning, or if they were not tuned to news media at the time. After the alert, news media would provide additional details as part of its continuing coverage.