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the future of emergency communications



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Emergency Notification Systems

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Wireless Emergency Alerts: Most Recent Enhancements

January 2017:

Geo-targeting improved from county-level to polygon-level (“best approximate”)

November 1, 2017:

Embedded references, such as URLs and phone numbers, in alert messages

- The carriers sought to indefinitely postpone, but FCC held to the original date due in part to APCO’s push-back

Wireless Emergency Alerts: Upcoming Enhancements

May 2019:

- Message length will increase from 90 to 360 characters
- Support Spanish language alerts
- Alert originators can conduct “live” end-to-end WEA tests

November 2019:

- Improved geo-targeting: match the target area specified by alert originators, with no more than 0.1 mile overshoot

Wireless Emergency Alerts: Potential Future Enhancements

- Inclusion of multimedia content in alert messages
 - [APCO Comments \(May 2018\)](#):
 - Embedding photos, symbols, maps, and other multimedia content will improve emergency response and provide the public with better emergency information
 - FCC should encourage participating wireless carriers to upgrade WEA systems to eliminate disparities between what's available to consumers and what's available to WEA alert originators
- Many-to-One alerting
- Consideration of WEA enhancements at the outset of 5G deployment
- Annual WEA performance reporting

Questions?

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