

# Common Alerting Protocol (CAP)



#### Presentation Outline

- 101.1 Opportunity and Challenge
- 101.2 Alerting Authorities
- 101.3 Benefits of CAP
- 101.4 Features of a CAP Message
- 101.5 CAP-enabled Alerting Systems
- 101.6 CAP Alert Hubs--Free, Fast, Reliable, Secure



### Warnings Via Commercial Media

Commercial TV and radio send warnings as "crawl text" and/or audio

What about online media users?





## An Opportunity

Online media (e.g, Google, the Federation for Internet Alerts...) are using their own capabilities to help alerting authorities send warnings to people using the Internet, at no charge



The National Weather Service has issued a

#### TORNADO WARNING

TAKE SHELTER IMMEDIATELY

KENT, MCCOMB, HARRIS, OTTOWA COUNTIES ...

UNTIL WED, 5:18 PM EST

READ MORE »

THIS IS AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS AND LIFE THREATENING SITUATION. IF YOU ARE IN THE PATH OF THIS LARGE AND... DESTRUCTIVE TORNADO TAKE COVER IMMEDIATELY.





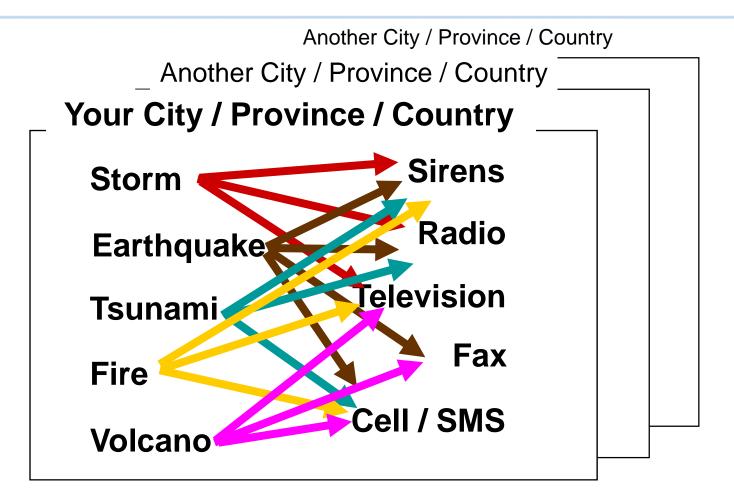
## The Challenge of Alerting

All governments have various public alerting systems:

- Earthquakes/tsunami by e-mail, news wire, Web sites, pagers, telephone calls ...
- Weather by news wire, fax, radio, television, e-mail, SMS text on cell phones ...
- Fire, Security, Transportation by television, radio, sirens, police with bullhorns...



## Across communities, nations, regions a "public alerting patchwork"





#### What is CAP?

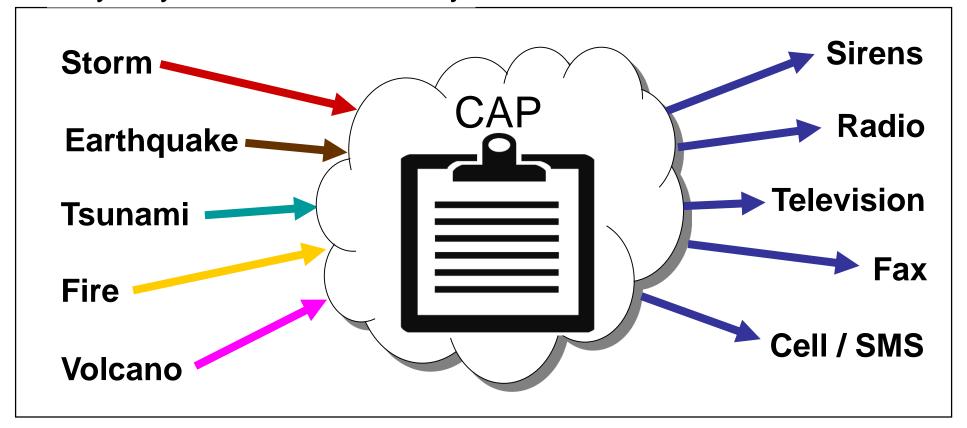
The Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) is a standard message format designed for All-Media, All-Hazard, communications:

- over any and all media (television, radio, telephone, fax, highway signs, e-mail, Web sites, RSS "Blogs", ...)
- about any and all kinds of hazard
   (Weather, Fires, Earthquakes, Volcanoes, Landslides,
   Child Abductions, Disease Outbreaks, Air Quality Warnings,
   Transportation Problems, Power Outages ...)
- to anyone: the public at large; designated groups (civic authority, responders, etc.); specific people



# All-Hazards, All-Media Message Format

#### Any City / Province / Country





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### What is an Alerting Authority?

#### Official alerting authority could be:

- National Meteorological or Hydrological Service
- Emergency Management Agency
- any other organization <u>authorized</u> to perform the function of <u>alerting</u>



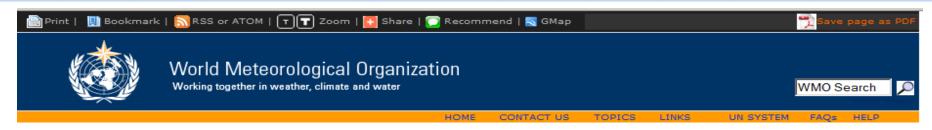
## The Need for a Register

- Aggregators and other intermediaries may lack direct knowledge needed to distinguish an authoritative source of alert messages
- This lack becomes critical as alerting makes use of large public networks
- The international Register of Alerting Authorities fills that knowledge gap
- Each entry asserts a particular alerting source as authoritative, with its typical hazard types and its typical alerting area



## Register of Alerting Authorities

#### http://www.wmo.int/alertingorg



Public Weather Services established this register of information about alerting authorities as identified by Members. For questions, please contact us. This page is using nested navigation, but is available without frames as well. Select a country to get started.

#### Alerting authorities by WMO Member or Organization To monitor updates to this Register, subscribe to the RSS or ATOM news feed. C Antigua and Barbuda Afghanistan Albania Angola Algeria Australia Argentina Armenia Austria Azerbaijan Bahamas O Bahrain Bangladesh Barbados Belarus Belaium Belize Benin Bhutan O Bolivia C Bosnia and Botswana Brazil O Brunei Darussalam Bulgaria Herzegovina O Burkina Faso Burundi Cambodia Cameroon Canada Cape Verde Central African Chad Chile Chile C China Republic Colombia Colombia C Comoros Cook Islands Costa Rica ○ Congo Cote d'Ivoire Croatia Cuba. Cyprus Czech Republic C Democratic People's Denmark Dominica C Dominican Republic Olibouti Republic of Korea Ecuador Egypt © FI Salvador Fritrea Estonia Ethiopia O Fiji France French Polynesia Finland

#### WMO Register of Alerting Authorities [ home ]

OID: 2.49.0.0.840.0 WMO Member: United States of America ISO 3166: US USA 840

Issuing Organization: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Weather Service

Hazard Categories: Geo Met Fire Health Env CBRNE-

hazards

Authorization Basis: The National Weather Service Organic Act of 1890, currently codified as amended in section 313 of title 15 of the federal statutory code (called the United States Code) authorizes the National Weather Service to issue and distribute was in a service of a price of the state of the st

Act, codified as amended sections 5121 to 5206 of title 42 of the United States Code.

CAP Feed URL(s):

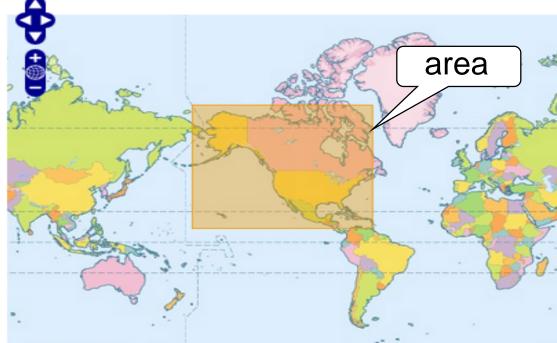
Language: English URL: https://alerts.weather.gov/cap/us.php?x=0-

CAP feed URL

Forecasts URL: http://www.worldweather.org/093/m093.htm

Alerting Area (NWSE): 73 -176 11 -61

#### Map view of the typical area for this alerting authority.



#### Hazard Categories

Geo: Geophysical (earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunami, etc., includes

√ landslide)

Met: Meteorological (weather, storms, etc.

includes flood)

Safety: General emergency and public

safety

Security: Law enforcement, military, homeland and local/private security

Rescue: Rescue and recovery Fire: Fire suppression and rescue Health: Medical and public health

Env: Pollution and other environmental

Transport: Public and private

transportation

Infra: Utility, telecommunication, other

non-transport infrastructure

CBRNE: Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear or High-Yield Explosive threat or

attack

Other: Other events

#### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's

#### National Weather Service



Local forecast by "City, St"

City, St.

Go

Site Map

Sign-up for Email Allerts

XML RSS Feeds

Warnings Current

By State/County.... **UV Alerts** 

Observations

Radar Satellite

Snow Cover Surface Weather....

Observed Precip

Forecasts

Local

Graphical Aviation

Marine:

Hurricanes

Severe Weather Space Weather

Fire Weather

Text Bulletins

By State

By Message Type

National

Forecast Models

Numerical Models

Statistical

Models....

MOS Prod GFS-LAMP Prod Home >

NewsOrganization

#### NWS Public Alerts in XML/CAP v1.1 and ATOM Formats

Search:

#### Overview

This page provides access to NWS watches, warnings, advisories, and other similar products in the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) and Atom Syndication Format (ATOM).

#### Use of ATOM and CAP with Traditional and Emerging Technologies

NWS CAP and ATOM feeds can be used to launch Internet messages, trigger alerting systems, feed mobile device (e.g., cell phone/smart phone and tablet) applications, news feeds, television text captions, highway sign messages, and synthesized voice over automated telephone calls or radio broadcasts.

The ATOM and CAP feeds are updated about every two minutes.

More information on NWS CAP and ATOM feeds is available in the Service Description Document for NWS Watches, Warnings, and Advisories using CAP and ATOM based Formats.

#### AICIDIFIGIHIIIKILIMINIOIPIRISITIUIVIWI--U.S.--

State (Zone List   County List)	ATOM
National (all)	MOTA S
Alabama (Zone List   County List)	MOTA
Alaska (Zone List   County List)	MOTA SE
America Samoa (Zone List   County List)	MOTA <
Arizona (Zone List   County List)	MOTA ☑
Arkansas (Zone List   County List)	MOTA
California (Zone List   County List)	MOTA SEE
Colorado (Zono Liet I County Liet)	N. Deservi

http://alerts.weather.gov/



## How is the Register Maintained?

- Register of Alerting Authorities established by WMO and ITU
- WMO Member countries register alerting authorities they recognize
- WMO Permanent Representative designates editor to maintain entries



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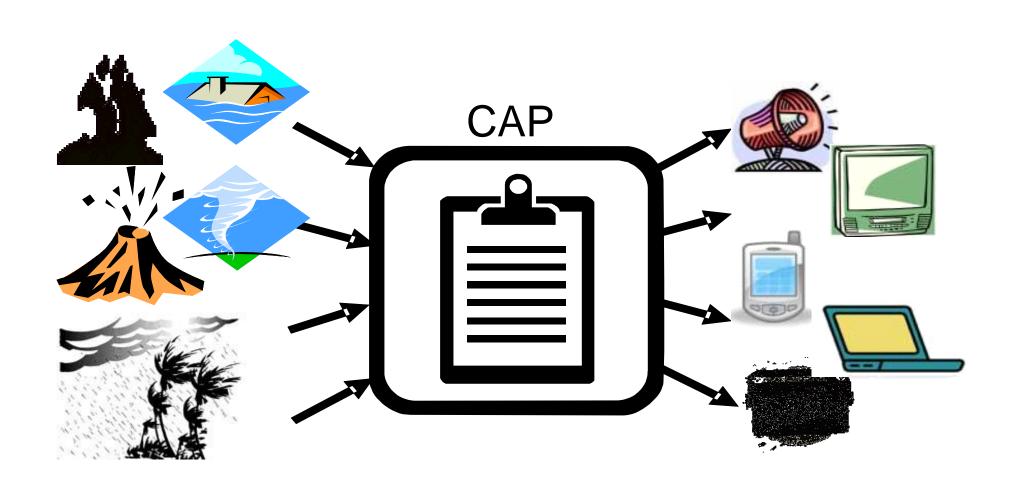
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## All-Hazards, All-Media





## Alerting the Target Audience

- People can reduce damage and loss of life if alerts are timely and appropriate
- Alerts should reach everyone who needs them, and only those who need them
- Alerting authorities rely on public media and CAP leverages <u>online</u> public media



### **Consistency and Compatibility**

- CAP provides consistency over multiple channels, allowing exact corroboration of alert information
- CAP defines a digital message format compatible with all kinds of existing and emerging systems--data networks as well as broadcast radio and TV
- CAP useful for multilingual and special-needs populations.

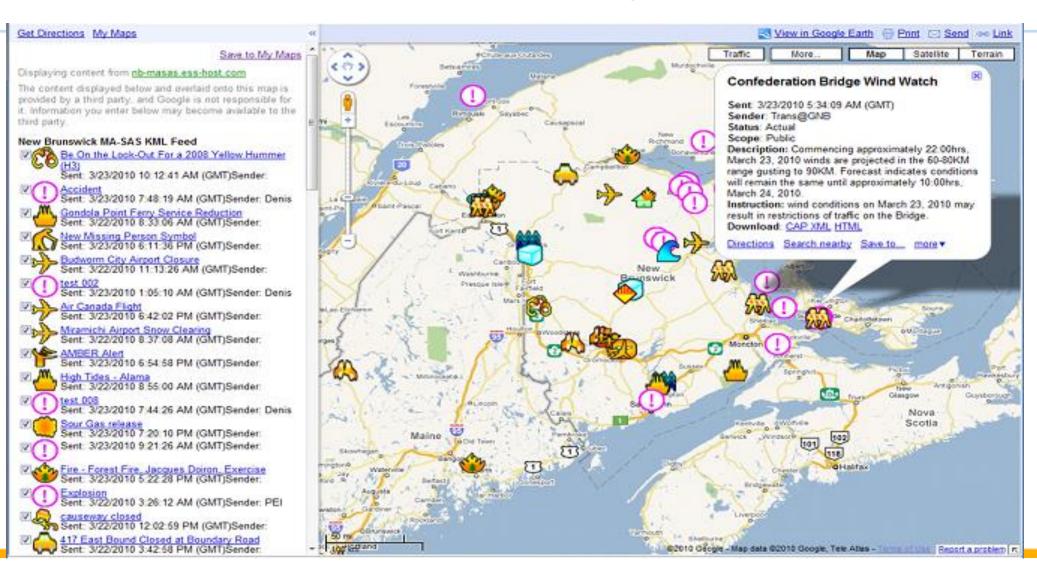


### Reducing Cost and Complexity

- A CAP message sender can activate multiple alerting systems with a single input
- Standardized alerts from many sources can be compiled for "situational awareness"
- Managers can monitor the whole picture across all types of local, regional, and national alerts (public alerts as well as messages among emergency personnel)



## Common Operating Picture





## Breakthrough Standard

- Technical innovation (~300 U.S. Patents)
- CAP alerts are being used to reach
  - landline and cellular telephones
  - radio and television sets
  - alerting sirens and lights
  - digital signage (highways, etc)
  - pagers of emergency responders
  - networks of law enforcement
  - "home all-hazards alarm" (next generation of today's home fire alarm)



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```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<alert xmlns="urn:oasis:names:tc:emergency:cap:1.1">
   <identifier>KSTO1055887203</identifier>
   <sender>KSTO@NWS.NOAA.GOV</sender>
   <sent>2003-06-17T14:57:00-07:00</sent>
   <status>Actual</status>
   <msqType>Alert</msqType>
   <scope>Public</scope>
 - <info>
      <category>Met</category>
      <event>SEVERE THUNDERSTORM</event>
      <responseType>Shelter</responseType>
      <urrequercy>Immediate</urrequercy>
      <severity>Severe</severity>
      <certainty>Observed</certainty>
      <expires>2003-06-17T16:00:00-07:00</expires>
      <senderName>NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SACRAMENTO CA</senderName>
      <headline>SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING</headline>
      <description> AT 254 PM PDT...NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DOPPLER RADAR
         INDICATED A SEVERE THUNDERSTORM OVER SOUTH CENTRAL ALPINE
         COUNTY...MOVING SOUTHWEST AT 5 MPH. HAIL...INTENSE RAIN AND STRONG
         DAMAGING WINDS ARE LIKELY WITH THIS STORM. </description>
      <instruction>TAKE COVER IN A SUBSTANTIAL SHELTER UNTIL THE STORM
         PASSES. </instruction>
      <contact>BARUFFALDI/JUSKIE</contact>
    - <area>
         <areaDesc> EXTREME NORTH CENTRAL TUOLUMNE COUNTY IN CALIFORNIA,
            EXTREME NORTHEASTERN CALAVERAS COUNTY IN CALIFORNIA,
            SOUTHWESTERN ALPINE COUNTY IN CALIFORNIA </areaDesc>
         <polygon>38.47,-120.14 38.34,-119.95 38.52,-119.74 38.62,-119.89 38.47,-
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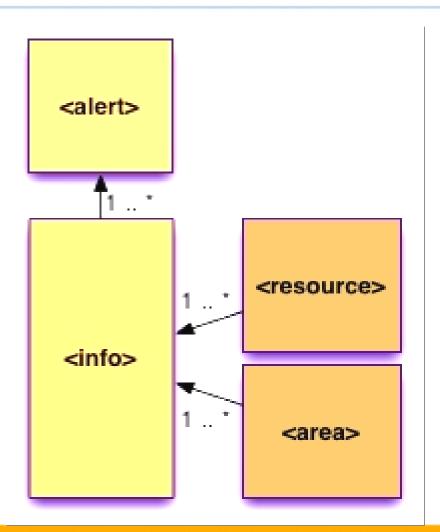
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## Structure of a CAP Message

#### **CAP Messages contain:**

- Text values for human readers, such as "headline", "description", "instruction", "area description", etc.
- Coded values useful for filtering, routing, and automated translation to human languages





## Filtering and Routing Criteria

- Event Categories (Geo, Met, Safety, Security, Rescue, Fire, Health, Env, Transport, Infra, Other)
- Urgency: Timeframe for responsive action (Immediate, Expected, Future, Past)
- Severity: Level of threat to life or property (Extreme, Severe, Moderate, Minor)
- Certainty: Probability of occurrence (Very Likely, Likely, Possible, Unlikely)



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- 101.5 CAP-enabled Alerting Systems
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# Typical CAP-based Alerting System

Based on CAP, <u>Alerting Solutions Inc</u> (ASI) supports many delivery methods:

U.S. Emergency Alert System (EAS), local radio station, local cable TV, sirens, strobe lights, e-mail, SMS, voice telephone, intercom / digital telephony, computer pop-up's, Web sites, social media (Twitter, Facebook, Myspace...), Emergency Call Boxes, reverse Weather Radio, building loudspeakers, voice fire speakers, police car loudspeakers, 800 Number/Hotline, LED signs and LCD screens





## CAP Implementations

- National Systems
  - Americas
  - Europe, Middle East, Africa
  - Asia/Pacific
- NGO and Commercial



## CAP Operational or In-Progress

#### **Americas**

Anguilla (UK), Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Aruba (Netherlands), Bahamas, Barbados, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Curacao (Netherlands), Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Mexico, Montserrat (UK), Puerto Rico (US), Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Sint Maarten (Netherlands), Trinidad and Tobago, United States, US Virgin Islands



#### United States of America

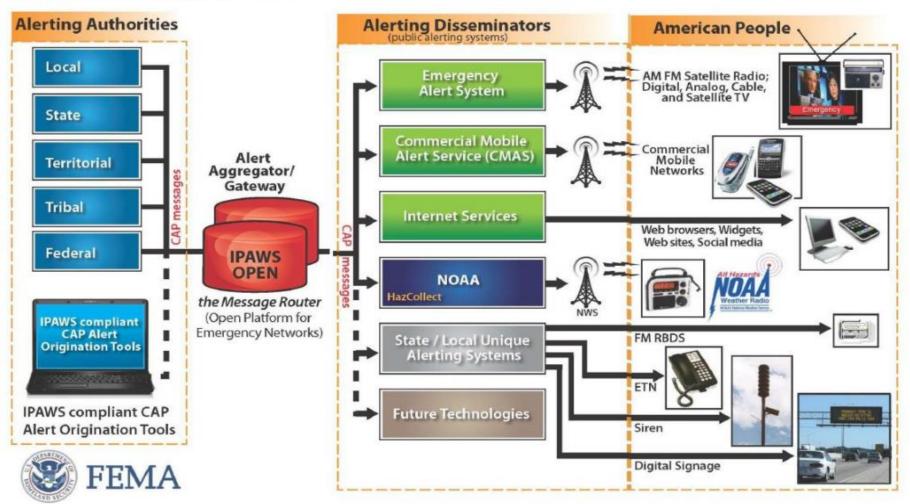
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Weather Service
- NOAA National Tsunami Warning Center
- United States Geological Survey (USGS), Earthquakes
- USGS Volcano Hazard Program
- Environmental Protection Agency, Air Quality Alerts
- Federal Emergency Management Agency, Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)



# U.S. Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)

#### **IPAWS** Architecture

Standards based alert message protocols, authenticated alert message senders, shared, trusted access & distribution networks, alerts delivered to more public interface devices





#### Americas - South America

- Argentina: <u>Servicio Meteorologico</u> <u>Nacional</u>
- Brazil: Alert-AS
- Chile
- Colombia: <u>UNGRD (National Unit for Disaster Risk Management)</u>
- Guyana: <u>Hydrometeorological Service</u>

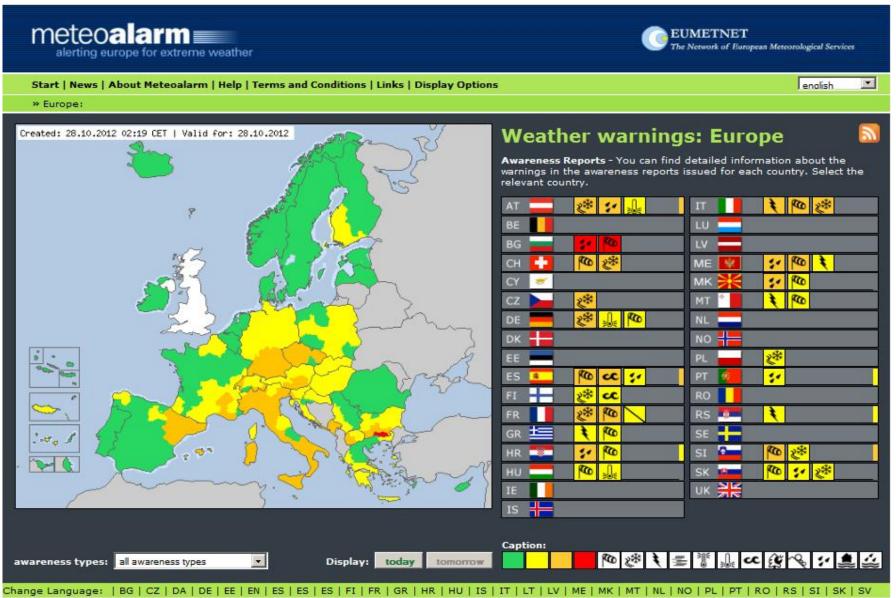


# **CAP Operational or In-Progress**

# Europe, Middle East, Africa

Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burundi, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malawi, Malta, Mauritius, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Serbia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Togo, United Kingdom, Zimbabwe

# **MeteoAlarm**





# CAP Operational or In-Progress

### **Africa**

Botswana, Burundi, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Zimbabwe



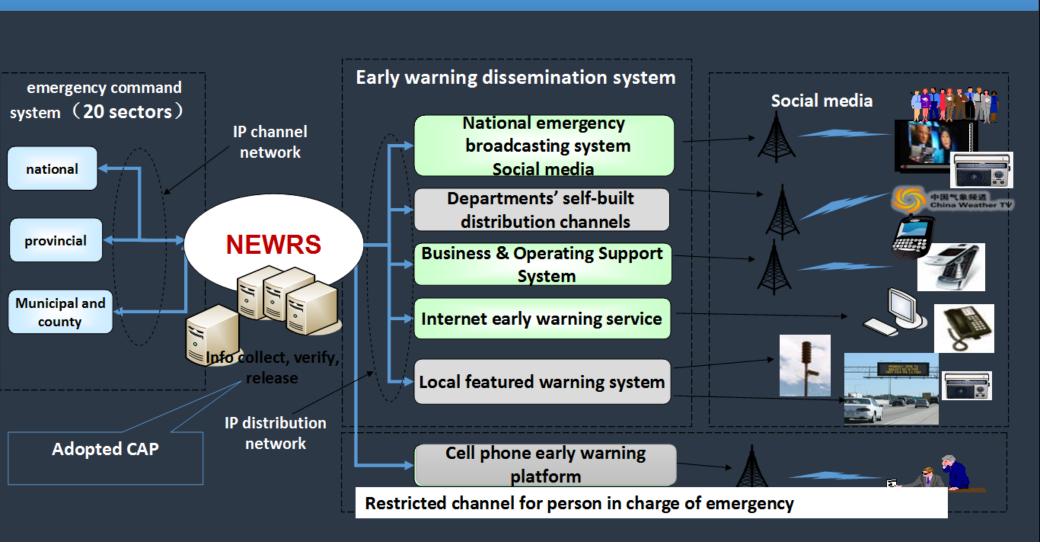
# **CAP Operational or In-Progress**

## Asia/Pacific

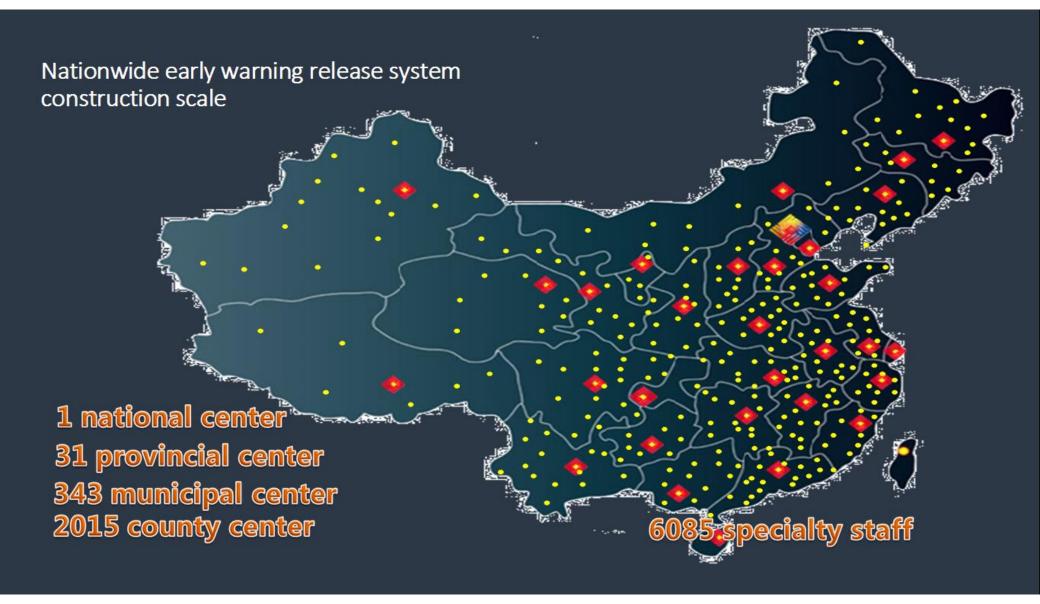
Australia, China, Fiji, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Madagascar, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russia, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu

## CAP in China

#### NEWRS relationship and structure



## CAP in China





# **CAP Implementations**

- National Systems
  - Americas
  - Europe, Middle East, Africa
  - Asia/Pacific



NGO and Commercial



# IFRC Universal App Program



<u>American Red Cross</u> <u>Mobile Apps</u> (example)





# Google Public Alerts

 Platform designed to bring users relevant emergency alerts when and where they

are using Google tools

 Whether user sees an alert depends on search query, which alerts are active, and the event importance

 To see all active alerts, go to homepage →





# What Now Service (IFRC + Google)

- Data feed of actionable and contextualized messages on how to prepare and respond to local hazards
   20 hazards; 78 languages; 192+ countries
- Designed specifically to complement CAP messages
- Uses <u>IFRC Public Awareness and Public Education</u> <u>Messages</u>, for example:
- 1. Prepare to evacuate, and know when and where to evacuate
- 2. Turn off utilities and gas tanks. Unplug small appliances
- 3. Never try to drive through flood waters. Turn around and go the other way



# Commercial Weather Alerting

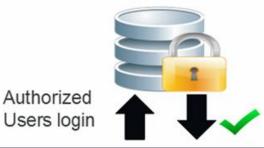
- AccuWeather
- MeteoFrance Vigilance
- MeteoFrance International, MeteoFactory
- The Weather Company



# The Weather Company Local Alerts Platform

#### 1) WMO Registry of Alerting Authorities (HKO)

Authenticates authorized alert creators





#### 2) Local Alerts Platform

Authorized users create/approve alerts on the Local Alerts Platform which attributes Alerting Authority as source and distributes alerts to Alert Hub



#### 3) WMO Alert Hub

Enables Publishers to post alerts and Subscribers to receive Authority's alerts Alert Subscribers & Citizens receive alerts from their country's Alerting Authority(s)



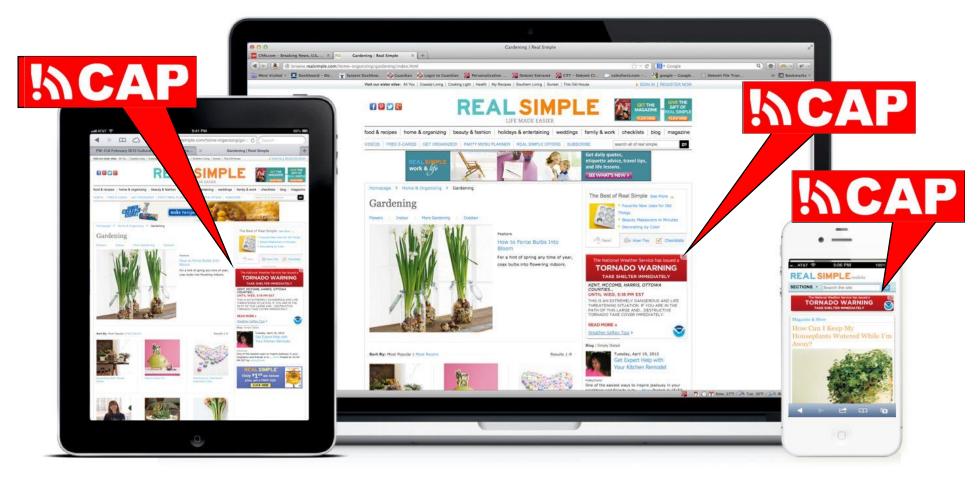


# Sensors that Emit CAP Alerts

- In-home monitors becoming all-hazard alarms
  - Halo+ smoke alarm
  - Speck sensor
- Earth Networks (lightning detection)
- Earthquake Building Damage Assessment



# Federation for Internet Alerts



Advertising companies overlay online ads to show high-priority warnings from official alerting authorities



# Other CAP-based Systems

- ➤ IBM Intelligent Operations Center for Emergency Management <u>video</u> <u>Users Guide</u>
- Microsoft CityNext
- Hate Group Monitoring
- Neighborhood Watch
- RSOE Emergency and Disaster Information Service



The information is updated every 6 minutes. There is no need to reload the page.



**Current Emergencies** 



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- 101.4 Features of a CAP Message
- 101.5 CAP-enabled Alerting Systems



- 101.6 CAP Alert Hubs--
  - Free, Fast, Reliable, Secure



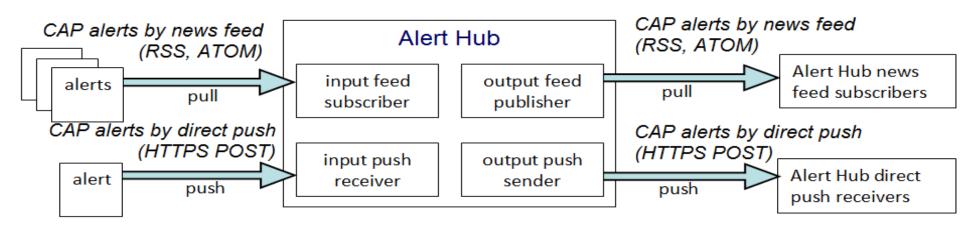
### **CAP Alert Hubs**

- Free service aggregating alerts and other emergency information, can push updates to all subscribers
- The WMO Alert Hub will have alerts from <u>official</u> sources as listed in the Register of Alerting Authorities
- Benefits :
  - Speed
  - Scale (performance, reliability, availability)
  - Redundancy
  - Security and Authenticity
  - Analytics



### Filtered Alert Hub

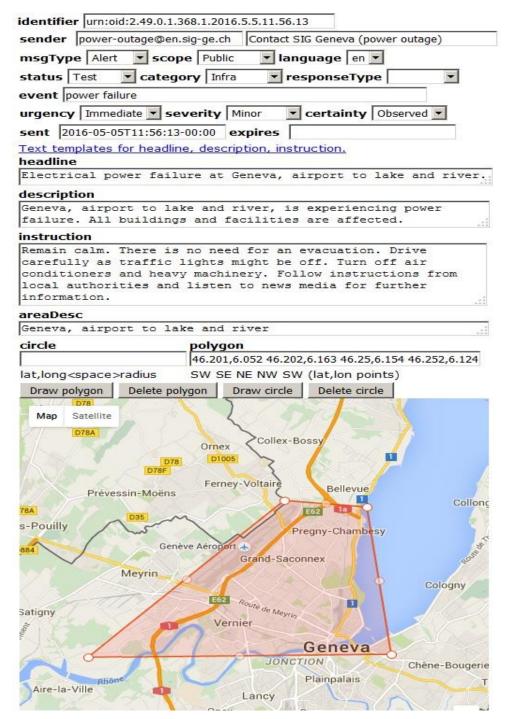
- Free service offers CAP alerts filtered by location, language, and other criteria (e.g., "official-only")
- Cloud-based: Highly Available, Reliable, Secure
- To minimize delay, sources can push alerts to the Hub, and the Hub can push to subscribers





# Free Tool for CAP Alert Creation and Publishing

https://cap.alert-hub.org



# Filtered Alert Hub http://alert-hub.org



The cloud-based Filtered Alert Hub aggregates emergency alerts worldwide. Click <u>here</u> for recent alerts.



This Hub allows for filtering aggregated alerts to fit a particular purpose. For example, the prototype now makes a separate news feeds containing official, public, high-priority alerts in a specific language for each country and each of 1870 cities. Click <a href="https://example.com/here">here</a> for these feeds.



At present, the prototype gathers alerts from 20+ sources, and more are expected in the coming months. Click <a href="here">here</a> for current alert sources.



Development of the Filtered Alert Hub is part of the NOAA Big Data Project. Click <u>here</u> for the project Wiki, and to access the free, open source software.



# Part of NOAA's Big Data Project



- Collaborative project with working prototype now
- Team includes: AccuWeather, Amazon Web Services, IBM and The Weather Company, Hong Kong Observatory, MeteoAlarm, Open Commons Consortium, USAID/OFDA; others are welcome
- Core components are Free Open Source Software
- Contact Project Lead (Eliot Christian)

## WMO Alert Hub Prototype



- WMO Alert Hub prototype aggregates alerts across feeds published by sources in the International Register of Alerting Authorities
- WMO Alert Hub prototype is based on the Filtered Alert Hub freeware



# Review of Key Points

- Opportunity and Challenge
- Alerting Authorities
- Benefits of CAP
- Features of a CAP Message
- CAP-enabled Alerting Systems
- CAP Alert Hubs--Free, Fast, Reliable, Secure

# CAP Implementation Workshops

Link	Host	City	Co-sponsors
<u>2018</u>	Hong Kong Observatory	Hong Kong, China	IAEM, IFRC, ITU, OASIS, WMO
<u>2017</u>	Italian National Fire Corps	Rome. Italy	IAEM, IFRC, ITU, OASIS, WMO
<u>2016</u>	Asian Institute of Technology	Bangkok, Thailand	IFRC, ITU, OASIS, WMO
<u>2015</u>	Italian National Fire Corps	Rome. Italy	IFRC, ITU, OASIS, WMO
<u>2014</u>	LIRNEasia	Negombo, Sri Lanka	ITU, OASIS, WMO
<u>2013</u>	WMO	Geneva, Switzerland	ITU, OASIS, WMO
<u>2012</u>	Environment Canada	Montreal, Canada	ITU, OASIS, WMO
<u>2011</u>	WMO	Geneva, Switzerland	ITU, OASIS, WMO
2009	WMO	Geneva, Switzerland	ITU, OASIS, WMO
2008	WMO	Geneva, Switzerland	ITU, OASIS, WMO
2006	ITU	Geneva, Switzerland	ITU, OASIS



# CAP Information Resources

- CAP Implementations by Country
- CAP References (PrepareCenter.Org)
- CAP Video (10 minutes, made by IFRC)
- Guidelines for Implementation of CAP-Enabled Emergency Alerting (PWS-27) free to download in English Arabic French Russian Spanish
- CAP Training Courses contact me Eliot Christian eliot.j.christian@gmail.com



### Cell Broadcast

- Standard cellular phone service
- Broadcast from cell tower to all cell phones in alerting area; no service subscription is needed



- Message is immediately broadcast to all; not one-at-a-time like SMS messages
- Cell Broadcast adopted for public warning in: Canada, Chile, China, Israel, Japan, Lithuania, Netherlands, South Korea, Taiwan, Turkey, USA