Civil Emergency Message (CEM)

An emergency message regarding an in-progress or imminent significant threat(s) to public safety and/or property. The CEM is a higher priority message than the Local Area Emergency (LAE), but the hazard is less specific than the Civil Danger Warning (CDW).

CEM is an original EAS civil event code, available in all EAS equipment. CEM may be used for any type of incident, such as activating pre-2002 EAS receivers used by industrial, school or public users. More specific event codes, available in post-2002 EAS receivers, should be used when possible. Review the state EAS plan for jurisdiction specific guidance.

Blackout Periods.

In order to prevent awakening the public in the middle of the night for warnings of non-imminent events, and to reduce disabling of audible alarms, smartphone alerts, etc., a blackout period is recommended from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. local time. In such situations, the warning should be delayed until the end of the blackout period. Non-alerting channels may still be used, such as email notification, press releases, etc. throughout blackout periods. When significant public impact is expected and lead time is so short that immediate notification is needed before the end of the blackout period, an alert may be issued.

1) Blue Alert – Suspect killed or seriously injured a law enforcement officer

Note: There is not a dedicated event code for Blue Alerts, unlike CAE for AMBER alerts. CEM may be used until a dedicated event code is assigned. Review the state Blue alert plan for jurisdiction specific guidance.

Tells the public important information to make catching the persons suspected of killing or seriously injuring law-enforcement officers easier. U.S. Department of Justice guidelines for Blue Alerts include:

a) the law enforcement agency involved—
   i) confirms—
      (1) the death or serious injury of the law enforcement officer; or
      (2) the attack on the law enforcement officer and that there is an indication of the death or serious injury of the officer; or
   ii) concludes that the law enforcement officer is missing in connection with the officer's official duties;
b) there is an indication of serious injury to or death of the law enforcement officer;
c) the suspect involved has not been apprehended; and
d) there is sufficient descriptive information of the suspect involved and any relevant vehicle and tag numbers;

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Emergency Alert System Elements

Originator Code (ORG):	CIV	Civil Authority
Event Code (EEE):	CEM	Civil Emergency Message
Location Codes (PSSCCC):	PSSCCC	Locations included in alert area
Duration (HHMM):	0600	6 Hours

Common Alerting Protocol Elements

Category: Safety
Event: Civil Emergency Message
Response Type: None

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

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

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

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 a *[Emergency Type]* because a *[Severity] [Event/Hazard]* is *[Certainty]* in the *[Area/City/County/State]* area.
Why do people need to act?	At *[Incident Time] [Day]*, *[Describe the incident, hazard and its consequences]*.
Where is the emergency taking place?	This 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 in *[Area/City/County]* are not affected at this time.

Civil Emergency Message (CEM)

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

What should people do?	For your safety, you should *[Recommended actions and extended instructions]*
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.

Civil Emergency Message (CEM)

Emergency Alert System Elements

Originator Code (ORG):	CIV	Civil Authority
Event Code (EEE):	CEM	Civil Emergency Message
Location Codes (PSSCCC):	PSSCCC	Locations included in alert area
Duration (HHMM):	0600	6 Hours

Common Alerting Protocol Elements

Category: Security
Event: Civil Emergency Message
Response Type: Monitor

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):

City/State of officer's murder/injury Vehicle tag and USPS state code Vehicle description	*[City, ST]* Blue Alert: LIC/*[Tag Number]* (*[USPS State]*) *[Year] [Color] [Make] [Model]*

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

Description of alert Recommended action (Vehicle description and license tag)	Blue Alert for suspect in police killing in [Location]. Looking for *[Year] [Color] [Make] [Model]* with *[State]* license plate *[Tag Number]*.

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 a Blue Alert for the killing of a police officer in *[City] [State].*
Why do people need to act?	Authorities say *[Suspect's Name]* is wanted for the felony killing of a *[Law Enforcement Agency]* police officer. The suspect is a *[Age]*-years old, *[Gender]* with *[Hair Color]* hair. *[He/She]* was wearing a *[Shirt Description]*, *[Pants Description]*, and *[Other]*.
Where is the emergency taking place?	The suspect may be traveling in a *[Year] [Color] [Make] [Model]* with *[State]* license plate, *[Tag Number with spaces],* which was last seen heading [Direction and Street/City Location]. *[Long, detailed descriptions of the suspect or vehicle are difficult for audio listeners to follow. Only the most visible attributes are included in the physical descriptions for EAS alerts. Include supplemental details, cautions, etc. only if very important for public safety. Additional details, including*

	extended physical descriptions, can be provided in associated law enforcement bulletins, press releases and web site.]

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

What should people do?	If you have any information about the killing of the police officer, or see the vehicle, or the suspect; please call the *[Law Enforcement Agency]* at *[10-digit telephone number without spaces]* or call 9 1 1 immediately.
When do people need to act? (next update, expiration)	The Blue Alert remains in effect until further notice. This message will be updated in 6-hours, 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; or you have seen the vehicle, the suspect or have information about incident.