



MASS WARNING AND NOTIFICATION AT ARMY INSTALLATIONS

Each local community is responsible for warning the public of impending danger due to an emergency. Army regions and installations support this effort by developing mass warning and notification systems to alert the Army community within their jurisdictions. Overseas, this system includes warning sponsored family members living off base, ideally by integration with local or host-nation systems.

Installations are likely to have multiple systems to maximize the potential for reaching all personnel:

- A voice announcing system using exterior speakers, commonly termed “Giant Voice,” and interior speakers or sirens
- Interactive, community notification systems to provide voice and/or data messages to multiple receivers—telephones, cellular phones, pagers, e-mail, etc.
- An administrative broadcast across Army computer networks that overrides current applications, thereby reaching all Army users almost instantly
- Sirens with varying patterns depending on the type of emergency broadcast throughout the installation.

Further, installations with significant on-base or nearby off-base family housing cooperate with local authorities for access to radio and TV emergency communication systems. Most installations overseas have direct access to radio and/or TV systems to support mass warning efforts.

Required, annual public awareness training for the Army community includes information on the relevant regional and installation mass warning and notification systems. All members of the Army community need to (1) be aware of which systems may be used under what conditions and (2) be prepared to take the appropriate action recommended by Army and local authorities.

Mission-essential and emergency response personnel have additional, specialized communications procedures and systems.

Prepare Strong

The Army encourages all personnel to maintain a basic level of preparedness for all potential hazards.

You are encouraged to get an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan and be informed about what might happen.

It is your responsibility to **understand the mass warning system** at your installation and, when notified, be prepared for the following:

- Evacuation
- Moving to civilian shelter
- Moving to designated safe haven
- Temporarily sheltering-in-place



ARMY STRONG®

Understanding Warnings, Gauging Response

The appropriate response to a potential hazard depends on its immediacy, reliability, severity and scope. There are many different types of hazardous events with different time scales, and warning terminology may vary. In the United States, the main agencies that warn of natural hazards are the National Weather Service (NWS) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). NWS uses the following terms for specific natural hazards:

- **Warning**—A hazardous event is occurring or imminent. Take immediate protective action.
- **Watch**—Conditions are favorable for a hazard to develop or move in. Stay alert.

These terms are widely accepted throughout the media and the emergency management community and may be used to set specific response actions in motion.

The **Emergency Alert System** may be used by federal agencies to provide official information about national-level emergencies and at the state and local levels to provide emergency messages. Almost all radio and TV stations participate in such broadcasts. The same technology is used by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) All-Hazards Weather Radio system, on which USGS earthquake, volcano and tsunami warnings are also released. Within the United States, it is recommended that all members of the Army community integrate use of the Emergency Alert System into their individual or family emergency plans.

Your initial public awareness training will familiarize you with local emergency plans, including warning systems. Your installation's mass warning and notification system will alert you in the event of a potential or actual emergency and initiate the appropriate protective actions—evacuating, moving to civilian shelter, moving to a designated safe haven or temporarily sheltering-in-place—based on predetermined action sets in response to specific indicators. If you or a family member requires assistance with visual or audio cues, plan for someone to convey essential emergency information to you.

Where to Find Additional Information

- Ready Army—www.ready.army.mil

It's up to you. Prepare strong. Get an emergency supply kit with enough supplies for at least three days, make an emergency plan with your family and be informed about what might happen.

