Apps for Enhancing WEA Access

Your Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) Accessibility Toolkit

WEA MESSAGE ACCESS:

Translation Apps
Since WEA messages are in English, it may be necessary to quickly and accurately translate the text for non-English speakers.

- The Google Translate app (free) offers translation for over 70 languages and is available for both iOS and Android users.
- Google Play offers an ASL Translator app.
- The App Store (iOS) offers an ASL Translator app.

Text-to-Speech/Screen Readers
Features that read the message content aloud may be necessary for someone who has a vision impairment.

- Screenreader: iOS systems come equipped with Voiceover, and Android with TalkBack,
- Other mobile operating systems may require a text-to-speech app that can read a WEA message.

Braille Translators
- Text-to-Braille may be preferred for some users with vision loss. Braille access to wireless emergency alerts may be available natively through an Android driven or iOS device. Not all Braille devices are supported by the phone's operating system.

Notification Signals
WEA messages have a distinct alert tone and vibrating cadence.

- Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing may benefit from enabling the LED Flash for Alerts (iOS) or Pulse Notification Light (Android) settings on their devices. These provide a visual cue through the camera flash when an alert is received.

RESPONDING TO WEA MESSAGES:

Maps
WEA messages may direct you to evacuate. Having a reliable map app can be vital.

- The Google Maps App (free), available for both iOS and Android, provides GPS navigation for individuals on foot, in the car, or public transit.
- According to Google, this app works with screen readers, such as TalkBack.

Broadcast News
- WEA messages often direct you to seek additional information through your local television and radio broadcasters. Many broadcast stations offer breaking news text alerts and apps.

Captioning
- Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing may benefit from enabling the captioning features on their devices to verify WEA alert information from third-party video sources. Caption options can be found in the Accessibility settings on both iOS and Android.

Social Media
With the growing use of social media during emergencies, it can be very helpful to follow your local emergency management office and local news for live updates.

- TalkBack (Android Phones) and VoiceOver (iOS devices) features are compatible with the Twitter app.

Disaster Assistance
- The First Aid by American Red Cross app (free) has been made compatible with the Voiceover function in iOS wireless devices. It offers step-by-step guidance through emergencies and safety information for natural disasters.
- The FEMA App (free) has safety tips, emergency meeting location information, and a map with open shelters.

Below are links to more information for each app discussed:

Google Translate
(Google Play) http://bit.ly/GooglePLay_Translate

(iTunes) http://bit.ly/iOS_GoogleTranslate

ASL Translator
(Google Play) http://bit.ly/GooglePlay_ASLtranslator

(iTunes) http://bit.ly/ASLtranslator

Google Maps
(Google Play) http://bit.ly/GooglePlay_Maps

(iTunes) http://bit.ly/iOS_maps

Tweetlist Pro
(iTunes) http://bit.ly/iOS_TweetList

First Aid by Red Cross
(Google Play) http://bit.ly/GooglePlay_FirstAid

(iTunes) http://bit.ly/iOS_FirstAid

FEMA App
(Google Play) http://bit.ly/GooglePlay_FEMA

(iTunes) http://bit.ly/iOS_FEMA

Electronic copy of this document can be found at https://goo.gl/RbI9Gu, or scan the QR code below.

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