



CHRISTOPHER BECENTI



AMBER ALERT/WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERTS UPDATE

WHAT IS WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERTS?

- WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERTS (WEAs) ARE SHORT EMERGENCY MESSAGES FROM AUTHORIZED FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL, TRIBAL AND TERRITORIAL PUBLIC ALERTING AUTHORITIES THAT CAN BE BROADCAST FROM CELL TOWERS TO ANY WEA-ENABLED MOBILE DEVICE IN A LOCALLY TARGETED AREA. WIRELESS PROVIDERS PRIMARILY USE CELL BROADCAST TECHNOLOGY FOR WEA MESSAGE DELIVERY. WEA IS A PARTNERSHIP AMONG FEMA, THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (FCC) AND WIRELESS PROVIDERS TO ENHANCE PUBLIC SAFETY.



NNTRC EFFORTS TO CLOSE THE GAP ON WEA

- SINCE 2019 WE HAVE LEARNED NOT ALL CELLPHONES WITHIN NAVAJO NATION WERE RECEIVING WEA. WE FIRST IDENTIFIED ANDROID USERS WITH ONE OF OUR REGIONAL CELL PROVIDERS WAS NOT GETTING SUCH ALERTS. WE INVESTIGATED AND FOUND AN ISSUE BETWEEN THE SERVICE PROVIDER'S EQUIPMENT NOT COMMUNICATING WITH FEMA IPAWS NETWORK. WE ENGAGED IN WITH THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION AND FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY(FEMA) TO CORRECT THIS MATTER.
- ONCE CORRECTED ON 5/13/20, WE WAITED FOR ANOTHER WEA TO BE SENT OUT AND CONFIRM IT WAS FIXED. GREAT NEWS IS IT WAS FIXED FOR ANDROID USERS HOWEVER WE HAD ONE MORE CHALLENGE AHEAD. IPHONE USERS WERE STILL NOT RECEIVING SUCH ALERTS AND WE IDENTIFIED THAT THIS WAS WITH MULTIPLE REGIONAL CARRIERS.

GOOD NEWS BEFORE OUR NEXT CHALLENGE



○ Kraus, Bambi <bambi.kraus@fema.dhs.gov>

○ Christopher Becenti

Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 2:37 PM

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→ You forwarded this message on 11/4/20, 2:48 PM.

← You replied to this message on 11/11/20, 9:36 PM.

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Navajo Nation Leads the Way

On Monday, March 23, 2020, the Navajo Nation was among the initial alerting authorities and the first from a tribal nation to issue a live wireless emergency alert as part of the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency response when 49 initial cases of COVID-19 were confirmed on the western part of the reservation. IPAWS enables public safety officials to deliver a single alert simultaneously through multiple communication devices, reaching as many people as possible during a weather-related or other emergency to save lives and protect property.

The Navajo Nation is composed of 110 chapters (local jurisdictions) 11 counties, two satellite reservations and seven police districts covering 27,000 square miles. It extends into three FEMA Regions and states that include Region 6 (New Mexico), Region 8 (Utah) and Region 9 (Arizona).

Lavina Willie-Nez, Deputy Director of the Navajo Nation's Department of Emergency Management, "pushed the button" to send that initial alert. She and Navajo Nation Emergency Management Director Harland Cleveland will join the webinar to discuss their experience using IPAWS and to take questions. Members of tribal emergency management as well as other people interested in connecting with IPAWS can log on to webinar at <https://femaipawslab.webex.com/femaipawslab/onstage/g.php?MTID=ee613293857bbc72098a4082740a335b3>. No pre-registration is required. Participants may dial the toll-free number (US/Canada) 1-650-479-3207, access code: 127 963 1458, and password: Heritage.

WORKING ON CLOSING THE IPHONE WEA GAP ON NAVAJO NATION.

DA 21-378

Released: March 31, 2021

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU ANNOUNCES
COMMENT AND REPLY COMMENT DATES FOR THE NOTICE OF PROPOSED
RULEMAKING AND NOTICE OF INQUIRY ON EAS AND WEA IMPROVEMENT**

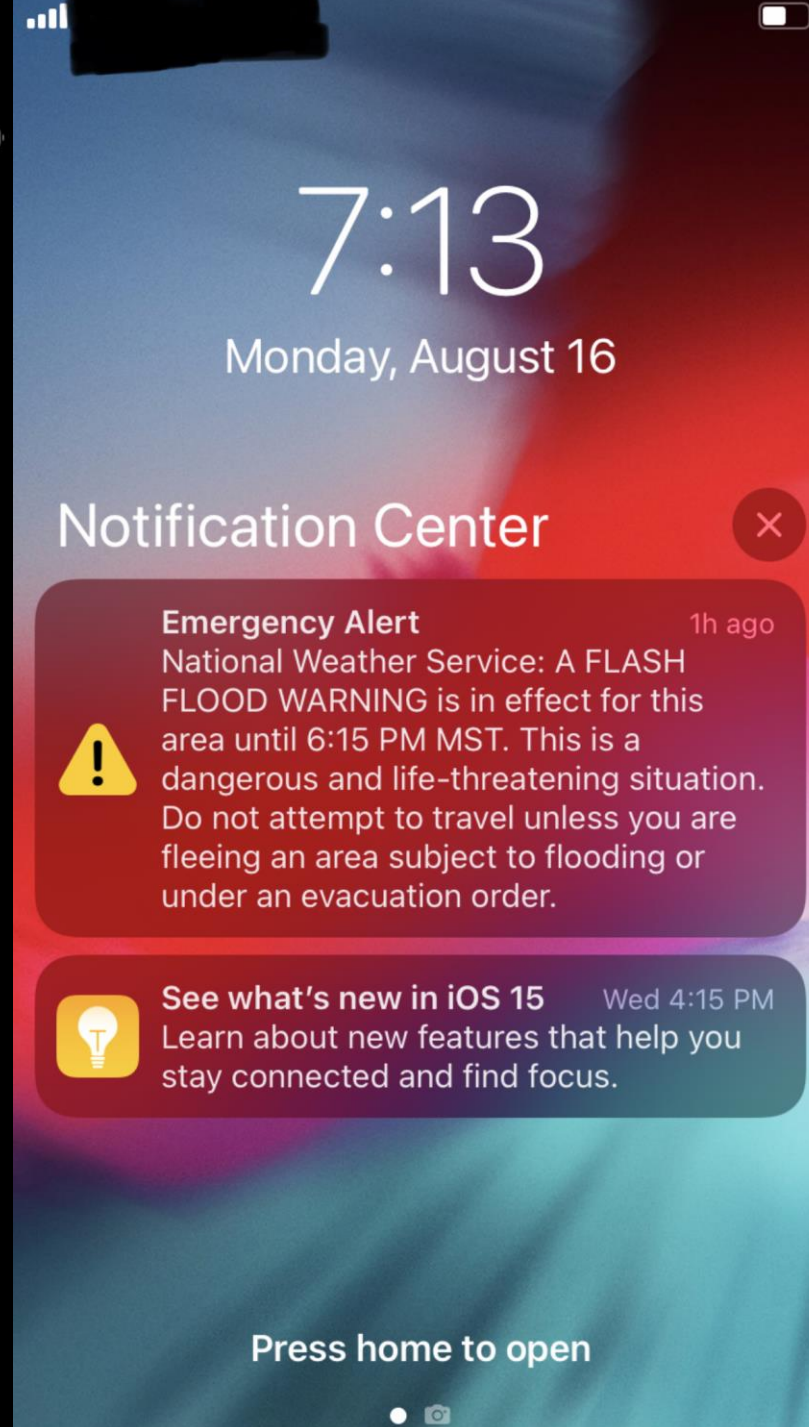
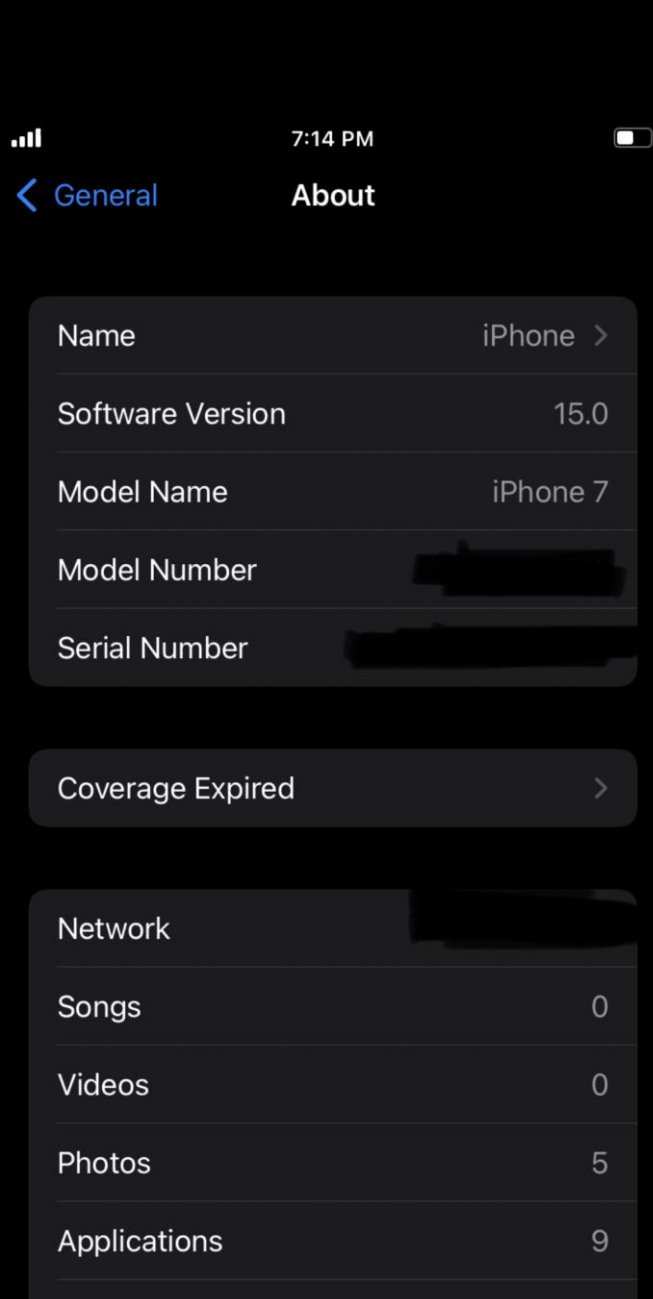
PS Docket Nos. 15-94 and 15-91

NPRM Comments Due: April 20, 2021

NPRM Reply Comments Due: May 4, 2021

NOI Comments Due: May 14, 2021

NOI Reply Comments Due: June 14, 2021



- ON AUGUST 16, 2021. WE HAD AN APPLE DEVICE RUNNING IOS 15 BETA SOFTWARE CONNECTED TO THE NETWORK AND WAS ABLE TO RECEIVE A WEA.
- WE HAVE SOFT CONFIRMATION THAT IOS 15 WILL BE ABLE TO RECEIVE WEA ALERTS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK AND CONFIRM ONCE THE OFFICIAL IOS 15 WILL BE RELEASED ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2021.

NNTRC NOTIFIED OUR LEADERSHIP WITHIN THE NAVAJO NATION AND A JOINT PRESS RELEASE HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO ENCOURAGE THE PUBLIC TO UPDATE THEIR IPHONE TO IOS 15. THIS WILL ENSURE THEY WILL BE ABLE TO RECEIVE WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERTS. THE NNTRC COMMISSIONERS AND ATTORNEYS WORKED HARD TO CLOSE THIS GAP AND WE ARE HAPPY TO CELEBRATE THIS MOMENTOUS OCCASION. THIS CLOSES THE BIGGEST GAP FOR WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERTS ON THE NAVAJO NATION.

**Navajo Nation Office of the
President and Vice President**

Jared Touchin (928) 871-7000



**Navajo Nation
Office of the Speaker**
Alray Nelson (928) 530-8329

– JOINT PRESS RELEASE –

Navajo Nation resolves technical issues to expand
Wireless Emergency Alerts for iPhone users

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 10, 2021

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Speaker Seth Damon of the 24th Navajo Nation Council are pleased to announce that the Navajo Nation Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NNTRC) recently resolved technical issues that prevented certain iPhone users on the Navajo Nation from receiving Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs).

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK:

- NNTRC COMMISSIONERS CHAIRMAN TRUJILLO, VICE CHAIRMAN MONTOYA, COMMISSIONER CLAH, COMMISSIONER NEZ, COMMISSIONER TATSUKAWA.
- FEMA
- FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION/ONAP
- JAMES DUNSTAN WITH MOBIUS LEGAL
- HARRISON RICE WITH NNDOJ
- NAVAJO DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
- 24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
- PRESIDENT NEZ AND VICE PRESIDENT LIZER