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PNSWSH

Public Information Statement 24-28  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
1100 AM EDT Wed Apr 17 2024

To:           Subscribers:  
              -NOAA Weather Wire Service  
              -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network  
              -NOAAPort  
              -NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards Listeners  
              Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From:         Douglas C. Young  
              Chief, Digital and Graphical Information Support Branch

Subject: WFO Fairbanks NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) and Emergency Alert System (EAS) Live Event Code Test for a Tornado Warning on May 1, 2024

The National Weather Service (NWS) Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in Fairbanks, the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and the Alaska Broadcasters Association plan to conduct a live code Tornado Warning test on Wednesday, May 1 at approximately 11:00 AM Alaska Daylight Time (AKDT) in the Denali Borough of central Alaska.

Across the contiguous United States, Universal Geographic Codes (UGCs) utilize the UGC-County (UGC-C) format for short-fused polygon warning products in World Meteorological Organization (WMO)-formatted text messages. However, in Alaska, these products utilize the UGC-Zone (Z) format. Following a similar test conducted on February 28th, this will allow further evaluation of all internal and external dissemination systems when a short-fused polygon warning is issued in the UGC-C format.

The emergency test message will be broadcast in a limited geographical area via audio and Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) tones over the NOAA Weather Radio station KPS504, with a transmitter located in Nenana, operating on a frequency of 162.400 MHz and the local KIAM radio station (AM 630 kHz and FM 91.9 MHz) in Nenana. The audio message will state that the message is only a test. The test will not be sent to cellphones via the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system, although in an actual Tornado Warning, this system would be used.

The test will be canceled if there are significant weather hazards in the area on May 1st. There is no backup date set for this test.

Table 1. The NWS Text Product to be Disseminated by WFO Fairbanks During the Test

Product Name	WMO Heading	AWIPS ID
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Tornado Warning	WFAK59 PAFG	TORAFG

For more information, please contact:

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