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**For Immediate Release**

**FCC ADDS NEW WARNING CODES TO THE EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM**  
*More Specific Weather Alerts to Help Inform the Public*

WASHINGTON, July 11, 2016 – The Federal Communications Commission today updated its rules so that Americans can receive more specific – and potentially life-saving – warnings through the Emergency Alert System (EAS) before extreme weather strikes. The amended rules add three new “event codes” that can be used to warn the public about the storm surges and extreme winds that may accompany hurricanes and other severe weather events.

The EAS is the national public warning system through which broadcasters, cable television providers, and other participants deliver emergency information to Americans. About 90 percent of EAS activations are generated by the National Weather Service (NWS) and concern weather events. Alert originators, such as the NWS, select from a group of fixed event codes based on the nature of the situation (for example, “TOR” signifies tornado), and the relevant alert is subsequently distributed by EAS participants to the public.

In response to stakeholder input, the FCC has now added three additional codes – to signify an “Extreme Wind Warning,” “Storm Surge Watch,” and “Storm Surge Warning” – so that communities can receive more specific and relevant alerts during hurricanes or other severe weather.

The updated rules require EAS equipment manufacturers to integrate the codes into new equipment and will also enable EAS participants to update their existing equipment in advance of next year’s (2017) Atlantic hurricane season.

Further information about EAS is available at <https://www.fcc.gov/general/emergency-alert-system-eas>.

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*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

