

NOUS41 KWBC 191450  
PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 25-96  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
950 AM EST Fri Dec 19 2025

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

From:       Mary Mullusky, Chief  
              Operations Services Division

Subject: Implementation of Partial County Alerting via NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) and the Emergency Alert System (EAS) for Arapahoe County, Colorado effective on March 3, 2026

Effective on Tue, March 3, 2026, at 2:00 PM Mountain Standard Time (MST), 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), NWS Denver/Boulder (BOU) will implement Partial County Alerting (PCA) for Arapahoe County, Colorado. This is based on positive feedback from the broadcast community, local officials and the public.

If March 3, 2026 is declared a Critical Weather Day, this implementation will be postponed to March 4, 2026 at 2100 UTC.

The following weather warnings from WFO BOU are impacted for this PCA implementation:

Product Name	WMO Heading	AWIPS ID
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Dust Storm Warning	WWUS55 KBOU	DSWBOU
Flash Flood Warning	WGUS55 KBOU	FFWBOU
Severe Thunderstorm Warning	WUUS55 KBOU	SVRBOU
Snow Squall Warning	WWUS55 KBOU	SQWBOU
Tornado Warning	WFUS55 KBOU	TORBOU

NWS disseminates weather warnings via NWR and the EAS. While many NWS warnings have become more refined in areal extent using forecaster-defined polygons, these warnings are generally conveyed via NWR and EAS on a whole (entire) county basis. However, NWS has the capability to disseminate these warnings via NWR and EAS for smaller areal sections of counties. NWS refers to these areas as county partitions; the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) refers to them as subdivisions. Disseminating warnings through NWR and EAS using partitions is referred to as PCA.

PCA reduces the geographical over-alerting of warnings by more closely associating polygon-defined warnings and polygon-defined NWEMs with

county partitions. With PCA, NWR Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME)-equipped users may select the county partition(s) for which they will receive automated alerts. Similarly, PCA allows broadcasters to select the county partition(s) they will convey NWS warnings through the EAS. PCA implementation may help limit and better target EAS activation in a given media market.

WFO Boulder has conferred with local emergency managers, state and local government officials and broadcasters serving Arapahoe County and will implement 3 partial county zones for Arapahoe County. A comprehensive description with maps and the new SAME and EAS Location Codes associated with each Arapahoe County partial county zone is provided online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/bou/ArapahoeCntyEASChange>

The shapefiles with the Arapahoe County Partial County boundaries for NWR and EAS are posted online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/gis/AWIPSShapefiles>

Instructions for programming your SAME-equipped NWR receiver with the new partial county SAME Location Codes are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/pca/nwr>

Once established in operations, the boundaries of the Arapahoe County partitions are fixed, unless modified at a later date through a formal change process.

A comprehensive description of PCA and the expansion of PCA to select US counties is online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/pca>

WFO Boulder anticipates that additional NWS warnings will use PCA in the future. Any service enhancements will be preceded by a future Service Change Notice.

For questions or concerns on the PCA implementation for Arapahoe County, please contact:

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For comments or questions on the national level PCA initiative, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:  
<https://www.weather.gov/notification>

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