

ALERT READY

The Alert Ready system was developed in partnership with federal, provincial and territorial emergency management officials, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Pelmorex Corporation (The Weather Network), the broadcast industry and wireless service providers. It has enabled government authorities to deliver emergency alerts to Canadians over television and radio since 2015 and to wireless devices since April 2018.

Not all Manitobans will receive emergency alerts on their wireless device. A compatible wireless device must meet three conditions:

- a wireless public alerting compatible device, like a smartphone, capable of connecting to an LTE network (LTE is commonly referred to as “4G LTE”);
- equipped with the latest version of its operating software; and
- connected to an LTE cellular network at the time the emergency alert is issued or joins the network while the alert is still active.

If a device does not meet all three conditions at the time the emergency alert is in effect, it will not be able to receive the alert.

The Canadian-Radio television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) currently requires that 50 per cent of new devices available for sale in Canada must be compatible with Alert Ready. This requirement increases to 100 per cent by April 2019. Over time, more devices will become compatible and more Manitobans will be able to receive emergency alerts on their wireless devices.

The CRTC has also mandated that all compatible wireless devices receive all relevant alerts. There is no sign-up or opt-in required. Emergency alerts will be automatically sent through broadcast channels such as television and radio, as well as to compatible LTE-connected wireless devices. You cannot opt out of receiving threat-to-life emergency alerts.

In Manitoba, the Emergency Measures Organization and Environment and Climate Change Canada are authorized users of Alert Ready emergency alert system.