

Media Contact:

Anne Veigle
anne.veigle@fcc.gov

For Immediate Release

**CHAIRWOMAN PROPOSES ACTION TO STRENGTHEN SECURITY
OF EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEMS**

*Proposed Rules Would Further Secure the Emergency Alert System and Wireless
Emergency Alerts*

WASHINGTON, September 7, 2022—Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel today shared with her colleagues a proposed action to bolster the security of the nation’s public alert and warning systems, the Emergency Alert System and Wireless Emergency Alerts. These systems warn the public about emergencies through alerts on their televisions, radios, and wireless phones.

“The Emergency Alert System and Wireless Emergency Alerts are used every day across the country to warn the public about severe weather, missing children, and other crises — and to help save lives,” **said Chairwoman Rosenworcel**. “It is critical that these public safety systems are secure against cyber threats, which means that we must be proactive. The draft proposals shared today will help ensure that our national alerting systems work as intended during emergencies and the public can trust the warnings they receive.”

If adopted by a vote of the full Commission, this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking would seek comment on:

- Ways to improve the operational readiness of the Emergency Alert System, including the amount of time that broadcasters, cable providers, and other EAS participants may operate before repairing defective EAS equipment;
- Requiring EAS participants to report compromises of their EAS equipment;
- Requiring EAS participants and the wireless providers that participate in Wireless Emergency Alerts to annually certify to having a cybersecurity risk management plan in place, and to employ sufficient security measures to ensure the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of their respective alerting systems; and
- Requiring wireless providers to take steps to ensure that only valid alerts are displayed on consumer devices.

The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking would seek public comment on these matters and related questions about improving alerting security.

###

Media Relations: (202) 418-0500 / ASL: (844) 432-2275 / Twitter: @FCC / www.fcc.gov

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).

