How does the US Government issue extreme weather alerts and watches?

1. NWS CAP Alerts: https://alerts.weather.gov/

*This page provides guidance on the use of and access to NWS watches, warnings, advisories, and other similar products in the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) and Atom Syndication Format (ATOM). Information below refers to CAP v1.1 except for the **Transition from CAP v1.1 to v1.2** section immediately below and the **Technical Notes about the NWS CAP v1.2 Messages** and **Methods to get NWS CAP v1.2 Messages** sections near the bottom of the page.*

2. NWS Use of Twitter as an Environmental Information Service: https://products.weather.gov/PDD/twitter_sdd_opl_2014.pdf

Content posted to Twitter is derived from information that exists on NWS official Web pages, or from official NWS products. Tweets may concern:
- *The science and anticipated impacts of the forecast period*
- *Long-fused warnings, watches, advisories (after product issuance)*
    - *NOTE: automated county-level feeds of short-fused warnings may also be pursued in the future, but not from office-level Twitter feeds*
- *Non-weather emergency messages from emergency management officials*
- *Weather/Climate facts*
- *Outreach and educational information*
- *Post event information*

3. National Weather Service on Twitter: https://www.weather.gov/twitter

NWS will be using Twitter as a supplemental channel to disseminate environmental information and promote weather awareness activities including outreach and educational efforts. Microblogging services offer another platform to distribute/contribute critical warning and impact information rapidly while also allowing NWS partners to contribute to what is being microblogged. A presence on Twitter offers a powerful tool to help disseminate lifesaving information; increase the public's understanding of weather, water, and climate; and increase the public's ability to take action.

4. NWS Warnings: https://www.weather.gov/

5. Listing of alternative sources of weather alerts: https://www.weather.gov/subscribe/

6. Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS):
https://www.fema.gov/integrated-public-alert-warning-system

Federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial alerting authorities can use IPAWS and integrate local systems that use Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) standards with the IPAWS infrastructure. IPAWS provides public safety officials with an effective way to alert and warn the public about serious emergencies using the Emergency Alert System (EAS), Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio, and other public alerting systems from a single interface.

7. Severe Weather Toolkit (social media)
https://www.ready.gov/Severe-Weather-Toolkit

The Severe Weather Safety Social Media Toolkit has severe weather safety and preparedness messages you can share on your social media channels. You can either copy these messages directly or customize them to reach your audience.

8. HazCollect System (IPAWS and NWS)
https://www.fema.gov/national-weather-service-systems-noaa-hazcollect

This section contains information about the National Weather Service's (NWS) alert and warning systems that work with Integrated Public Alert and Warning Systems (IPAWS) to ensure the public can receive life-saving alerts and warnings.

FEMA and the NWS have partnered to provide the NWS family of dissemination systems as an additional channel through which alerting authorities using IPAWS can send public alerts and warnings.

9. Organizations with alerting authority (IPAWS) - complete and in progress
https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/117152

PDF documents for download

10. NWS Glossary
https://w1.weather.gov/glossary/

This glossary contains information on more than 2000 terms, phrases and abbreviations used by the NWS. Many of these terms and abbreviations are used by NWS forecasters to communicate between each other and have been in use for many years and before many NWS products were directly available to the public. It is the purpose of this glossary to aid the general public in better understanding NWS products.

11. NWS Forecast Terms
https://www.weather.gov/bgm/forecast_terms

The National Weather Service issued forecasts for sky condition, temperature, wind and precipitation on a routine basis. The terminology used in these forecasts is quite variable. Listed below are descriptors of regularly used weather terms and their meanings to help give a better understanding of each forecast.

12. NWS Severe Weather Terminology
https://www.weather.gov/media/gid/terms.pdf

One-pager of severe weather terminology (10 terms total)

13. NWS Product Listing
https://forecast.weather.gov/product_types.php

Identifiers (codes) and descriptions for all NWS products (eg. Avalanche Warning, Area Weather Summary, Airport Weather Warning)