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Audio Weather Alert Enhancement Release Notes



Weather Star® Jr. and Weather Star III

Release Overview

The Weather Channel Network is enhancing the way certain National Weather Service Warnings are perceived by the viewing public for those people watching The Weather Channel supported by a Weather Star Jr. or a Weather Star III.

Release Deployment

This release will be handled by The Weather Channel host computer. No assistance from the cable headend engineer is required. When the release installation is complete, there will be no visible difference to the television screen and no loss of data.

Document Purpose

This document describes the item which the Audio Weather Alert Enhancement release improves for the Weather Star Jr. and Weather Star III units. The enhancement in the release is described in terms of what the home viewer would experience from a television screen.

Scope

The information in this document applies to Weather Star Jr. and Weather Star III units only.

Corrections to any other unit types are not addressed in this document.

Items Corrected:

Improve the Frequency of Audible Weather Alerts 2

Solution Center
(800) 554-7354
starops@weather.com

The Weather Channel Solution Center is staffed 7x24, 365 days a year to respond to any situation. We welcome any questions, suggestions, or comments on our products, services, and support.

Test Environment Description

The Audio Weather Alert Enhancement release was tested in The Weather Channel Quality Assurance Lab and verified to be working. The QA lab is configured as follows:

Satellite Receivers

Standard Agile Omni Professional Channel 13
Frequency 6500—Medium

Drake Earth Station Receiver (ESR 1255) Channel 13
Frequency 3.960

Video Cipher

Wegener VideoCipherII Plus (model 2900)

Video Distribution Amplifier

Lenco PFM-300 (with PVA-350 cards)

Commercial Insertion Equipment

Channelmatic, Inc. Spotmatic Jr.
Channelmatic, Inc. Moneymaker

Item Improved in the Audio Weather Alert Enhancement Release

Improve the Frequency of Audible Weather Alerts

What You Used to Experience . . .

When a National Weather Service Tornado Warning, Flash Flood Warning, or Severe Thunderstorm Warning was first displayed, each Weather Star Jr. and Weather Star III unit emitted a series of audible beeps to call the viewers' attention to the warning.

For each subsequent transmission of the same warning, the associated text message continued to display every six minutes for up to the next hour, however, the audible beep was not repeated.

What You Experience Now . . .

Now every time a National Weather Service Tornado Warning, Flash Flood Warning, or Severe Thunderstorm Warning displays, each Weather Star Jr. and Weather Star III unit emits a series of audible beeps to call the viewers' attention to the warning so that if viewers tune in after the initial warning display, they will still hear the alert the next time the warning displays.

This is an audible change only. There is no visual difference to the display of the warning.