



Deaf-First Emergency Warnings

From sound only to light, vibration, and sign language

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International Deaf Emergency · WFD 75th Anniversary Webinar

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THE PROBLEM

One warning. Two very different experiences.

HEARING PEOPLE

A siren says:

DANGER

DEAF PEOPLE

A text message may feel like

ANY OTHER MESSAGE

It can be missed. We may see it too late.

A warning works only when it reaches the person.

People must be able to see it, feel it, or hear it.

One warning. Three ways to understand it.

SEE IT

**Flashing light
+ clear picture**

Useful when sound
cannot be heard

FEEL IT

**A clear
vibration pattern**

Useful when sight or
sound is not enough

HEAR IT

**A special
emergency sound**

Useful when the screen
cannot be seen

DAY OR NIGHT, SIMPLE SIGNALS CAN TELL THE DANGER QUICKLY.

People do not need to read a text message or wait for TV first.

Helpful for Deaf, DeafBlind and blind people, older people, children, and people without disabilities.

WHAT HAPPENS TODAY?

The technology exists. The shared rules do not.

USA

Wireless Emergency Alerts use one common vibration pattern for all alerts.

EU

The public-warning law does not give phones one common visual or touch design.

DEAFBLIND

We found no global phone-alert rule that can be understood by touch alone.

BUILDINGS

Fire alarms already use flashing lights and other accessible signals.

Phones still need clear rules for sight, touch, and sound.

THREE SENSES ALERTING STANDARD — DRAFT 0.1

Simple rules for sight, touch, and sound

Every warning must answer five questions.

1

Is this an emergency?

A special signal that is hard to confuse.

2

How serious is it?

Color, a mark, and vibration show the level.

3

What danger is it?

A picture and a vibration pattern.

4

What should I do now?

The action comes first, in simple words.

5

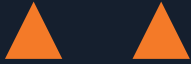
More information in my language?

Local sign language, text, voice, and accessible text.

Sent to eyes, body, and ears. Each method must help people act.
Works without internet when possible. Testing is starting.

HOW SERIOUS IS IT?

Color never works alone.

SAFE NOW	BE READY	DANGER	ACT NOW
all clear	prepare	act soon	life danger
			
silence	gentle vibration	strong vibration	strongest + fastest

**Color + shape + vibration give the same message.
When danger changes, the phone alerts again.**

WHAT DANGER IS IT?

Draft patterns to learn by touch, light and sound.

WATER



flood · tsunami · storm surge



long, rolling pulses

STORM



cyclone · typhoon · tornado



sharp pulses

GROUND



earthquake · landslide



long pulse

FIRE



fire · wildfire



fast pulses

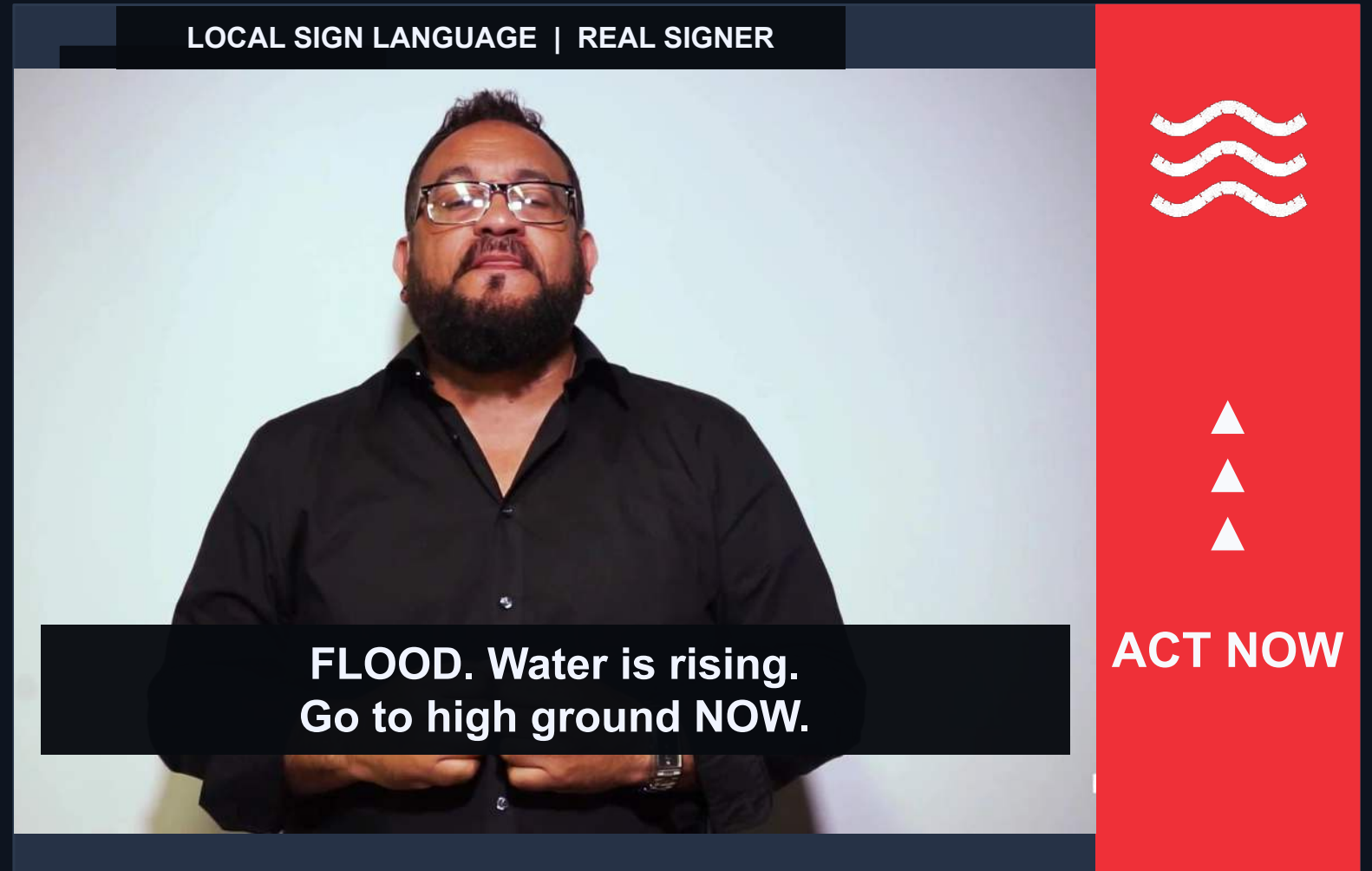
**At night, the vibration can help identify the danger.
These patterns are a draft. Deaf and DeafBlind testing comes next.**

ONE FLOOD ALERT — TWO LEVELS

1. SEE THE DANGER AND ACTION



2. GET DETAILS IN YOUR LOCAL SIGN LANGUAGE



Real Deaf signer · captions · picture · severity level

SOME PARTS ALREADY EXIST

We are not starting from zero.

USA · 2028

Phones that use WEA must support optional ASL video templates by 12 June 2028.

JAPAN

A special sound is used for earthquake early warnings.

KOREA

Korea is improving alert sounds for messages that need evacuation.

ANDROID

Supported devices can flash the screen or camera for notifications.

DEAF GROUPS

Many Deaf groups already share signed alerts by hand.

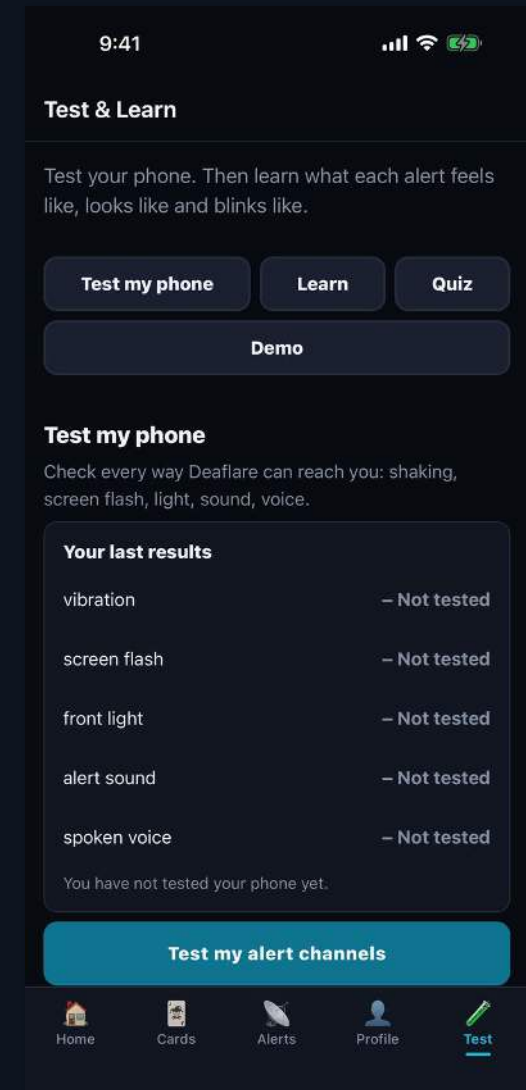
The technology is starting. We need clear rules that can work everywhere.

Sources: FCC · Japan Meteorological Agency · Korea MOIS · Android Accessibility Help

We learned by building.

- Deaflare is our Deaf-first emergency app.
- While building it, we found no clear rules to follow.
- So we wrote a draft and put it in the app.
- People can test vibration, screen flash, light, sound, and voice.
- Testing with Deaf and DeafBlind people starts next month.

The app helps us test. The shared rules are the goal.



ACCESSIBLE WARNINGS SAVE LIVES

UN MESSAGE

**Emergency services must be accessible to people with disabilities.
Without access, lives are at risk.**

Sources: UN CRPD General Comment 2, para. 36 · ITU Early Warnings for All, Pillar 3

WFD + IDA

Help start a Deaf-led working group with ITU / Early Warnings for All. Our draft is input. The group owns the final text.

STANDARDS

Add the five questions to global alert rules.

DEAF GROUPS

Check the alerts in your country and share what you find.

The technology exists. Clear shared rules are missing.

LET US WRITE THEM TOGETHER.

SEE IT. FEEL IT. HEAR IT.



**JOIN THE
WORK**

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