

JEFF R. HOLLOWELL SHERIFF

ERIC PRITCHARD UNDERSHERIFF

"A Professional Service Agency"

News Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Carma Roper, Public Information

E-mail: croper@inyocounty.us

Wireless Emergency Alert Scheduled for noon today

INYO COUNTY, CA. December 8, 2020 – The State of California, Office of Emergency Services, pursuant to the Governor's Order will be issuing a WEA (Wireless Emergency Alert) text today at noon. This alert will go out to all Counties who are under a "Stay at Home" order.

State Sheriffs were advised yesterday at 4:30pm of the alert. Even though Emergency Managers and Law Enforcement were not involved in the discussions regarding the alert, we were informed we had no control. Across this state, Emergency Managers and Law Enforcement are dealing with potential Public Safety Power Shutoffs, Red Flag warnings and the potential for wildland fires. We urged the Governor not to conduct the alert as the message could be conflicting with emergency evacuation orders. WEA is supposed to be used for emergencies.

The primary concern is the potential for conflicting alerts if an actual emergency occurs. If you receive the WEA, please do not call 9-1-1 or County offices for clarifications. You can call the California Office of Emergency Services at (916) 845-8510.

The Inyo County Sheriff's Office will continue to advise citizens and visitors via Code Red, IPAWS (Integrated Public Alert Warning Service), or WEA in the event of an emergency. The message will clearly state it's from the Sheriff's Office.

-###-