INTELLIGENCE SERIES · INT-21

INT-21 — Reading the Alert

Household Alert Literacy

Weather Threat Assessment & Action Triggers

BOTTOM LINE UP FRONT

This course teaches you to read and act on the National Weather Service and EAS/WEA alerts already reaching your household — the naming logic, the hazard-family vocabulary, and the pre-built decision triggers for each. It is not about acquiring alert equipment (that's COM-13), and it is not a full household emergency plan (see the Contact Plan and Emergency Action Plan courses). It is the judgment layer in between.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Most alert failures aren't equipment failures — they're comprehension failures.

Every household with a working weather radio can still get this wrong, because the failure isn't in receiving the alert — it's in reading it. A Watch treated like a Warning burns the one planning window a household is guaranteed to get.

> *"A Watch is not a Warning. Treating them the same costs a household the only lead time it was ever going to get."*

THE FOUR-TIER NAMING LOGIC

Term	What It Means
Advisory	A hazard expected to cause inconvenience — not yet a threat to life or property if caution is used.
Watch	Conditions are favorable for the hazard to develop. The planning window — get ready, don't wait.
Warning	The hazard is occurring, imminent, or highly likely. The action window — execute the plan now.
Statement	Informational or a follow-up to an active Warning. Read the body text; the word alone doesn't tell you which.
Emergency wording	Escalated language inside an active Warning for a confirmed, catastrophic event. Rare, and the most urgent tier that exists.

COURSE LESSONS

#	Lesson	What It Covers
1	**The Naming Logic**	Advisory, Watch, Warning, Statement, and Emergency wording, decoded.
2	**Severe Convective Hazards**	Severe Thunderstorm and Tornado products, damage tags, and the Tornado Warning clock.
3	**Winter, Flood, and Marine Hazards**	Winter Storm, Ice Storm, Blizzard, Flood vs. Flash Flood, and the marine ladder.
4	**Non-Weather and Civil Alerts**	Civil Emergency Message, Evacuation Immediate, and weighing a civil alert before acting.
5	**From Alert to Action: Building Your Triggers**	The capstone: build your household's one-page trigger sheet.

DOCTRINAL SOURCES

National Weather Service / NOAA Impact-Based Warning criteria; FEMA / Ready.gov household alert-response guidance. [Confirm exact held source documents before publishing.]