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## **Societal security — Emergency management — Guidelines for public warning**

*Sécurité sociétale — Gestion des urgences — Mises en garde de la  
population*



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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

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For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see the following URL: [Foreword — Supplementary Information](#).

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 292, *Security*.

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## Introduction

Disasters, terrorist attacks, and other major incidents need an effective incident response in order to save lives, mitigate harm, and damage. Emergency response organizations need to respond quickly to a developing emergency situation. Time to communicate is limited and often, a specific message involving practical action is to be disseminated to a large group. Simple procedures that send the message efficiently and create the desired response can save lives, protect health, and prevent major disruptions.

The protection of people at risk from harm is an important part of an incident response. Public warning enables response organizations to alert their responders and allows people at risk to take safety measures to reduce the impact of incidents. Effective public warning consisting of alert and notification can prevent panic reactions and support response organizations in optimizing their responses and mitigate the impact.

Effective incident response needs a structured and pre-planned public warning. Public warning is based on two functions: hazard monitoring and warning dissemination. It is also necessary to establish a mechanism for risk identification, hazard monitoring, decision-making, warning dissemination, and to evaluate and improve.