

FCC beefs up emergency cellphone alerts

September 29 2016, by Tali Arbel



This file frame grab from a cellphone shows an emergency alert along with a news alert on Monday, Sept. 19, 2016, about a man wanted in connection with explosions in the New York City metropolitan area. The federal government is beefing up emergency cellphone alerts like the one used in New York to advertise the search for the bombing suspect. The Federal Communications Commission approved a measure Thursday, Sept. 29, 2016, that will let messages be up to four times longer than the current 90-character limit, and cellphone companies will have to support Spanish messages under the new rules. The changes will also let officials target messages more narrowly and include links in messages. (AP Photo/File)

The federal government is beefing up emergency cellphone alerts like the one used in New York to advertise a search for a bombing suspect earlier in September.

The Federal Communications Commission approved a measure Thursday that will let messages be up to four times longer than the current 90-character limit.

Cellphone companies will have to support Spanish messages under the new rules. The changes will also let officials target messages more narrowly and include links in messages.

The New York alert had an awkward phrasing, "See media for pic," rather than a link to Ahmad Khan Rahami's photo.

The FCC also says it's seeking comments on how to attach photos inside actual alerts themselves.

© 2016 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: FCC beefs up emergency cellphone alerts (2016, September 29) retrieved 17 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2016-09-fcc-beefs-emergency-cellphone.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.