

Emergency Alert Email Transmission to Android Devices Operated by MVNOs

January 30, 2018

Information regarding civil protection such as information about ballistic missiles is currently being transmitted through municipal disaster prevention broadcasting systems, subscription mails, etc. Area emails and emergency alerts are also being sent to cellphones and smartphones by the Fire and Disaster Management Agency through major cellular provider companies (NTT DoCoMo, KDDI, Okinawa Cellular, Softbank). Previously, among SIM free* devices (also known as unlocked devices) operated by a mobile virtual network operation (MVNO), some Android devices were unable to receive the aforementioned emails. Recently, major cellular providers formulated a method of shared transmission geared toward “Android™ 8.1”*** provided by Google, so SIM free Android devices are now able to receive area emails and emergency alerts.***

- * SIM free: when devices such as smartphones do not have to use a specified cell phone company’s SIM card (a small card that must be inserted in order to connect to a phone line), but instead has been altered so that it can use a SIM card from any company.
- ** Android is a registered trademark of Google LLC.
- *** Devices that are equipped with “Android™ 8.1.0_r9” and above. Please contact your individual MVNO company or device provider to confirm what software your device is running.

(Reference 1)

It is expected that makers operating with SIM free devices will transition toward devices equipped with Android going forward. For information on the transition to the aforementioned devices and how to update existing devices, please contact your MVNO company or device provider.

- * Information related to civil protection is transmitted as “disaster/evacuation information.” In order to receive “disaster/evacuation information,” you must change your settings to ON for reception of the above emails.

(Reference 2)

There are other ways to receive emergency information besides area emails and emergency alerts. Some examples are listed below.

(1) Examples for Smartphone Apps, etc.

There are private companies that provide free services through which you can receive real-time civil protection information such as notifications about ballistic missiles.

You can use the following URLs to install such apps on your smartphone or register for an email subscription.

*Please note that these are just a couple examples of services that provide this information.

Yahoo!防災速報

<https://emg.yahoo.co.jp/>

goo 防災アプリ

<http://advance.bousai.goo.ne.jp/web/>

Safety Tips (iOS)

<https://apps.apple.com/eg/app/safety-tips/id858357174>

Safety Tips (Android)

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=jp.co.rcsc.safetyTips.android&hl=en>

(2) Subscription email services provided by local public organizations

There are email services in some prefectures and municipalities that send emails to your smartphone or cellphone address with information regarding ballistic missiles, etc., if you subscribe beforehand.

Please check the homepage of the prefecture/municipality in which you reside.