



# KATWARN

THE WARNING SYSTEM

## The Warning and Information System for the Public





### How do I get KATWARN?

- KATWARN-App: available for iPhones, Android and Windows Phones in the respective App Stores
- Via text message and e-mail
- Via browser on [www.katwarn.de/en](http://www.katwarn.de/en)

### Where do the warnings come from?

- Participating security authorities
  - Authorized facilities (e.g. national weather services)
  - Enterprises and businesses
- (This information may vary by country.)



### How does KATWARN warn me?

- Text information, maps and symbols
- Location-based: with activated guardian angel and for up to seven local favorites
- Topic-related: for selected topics or events

## Next Generation of Disaster Warning

For many years now, KATWARN has been saving lives – because a warning proves only effective if it reaches the affected people anywhere at anytime.

KATWARN is a warning system especially designed for public authorities and safety facilities in order to send important safety information.

But KATWARN does not simply inform people ABOUT a hazard but also HOW they should react. With locally precise information, people at home, at the office, or on the move are warned individually. This means that only affected persons receive messages along with suggested actions e.g. by the police or fire departments.

The KATWARN system is best known for its smartphone application, that provides hazard information directly issued by responsible authorities.

### Warning activity

In the event of a warning, your cell phone will ring with a special sound and will cause a vibration effect. Symbols, colored graphics and texts provide further information.

### Warnings for fellow people

Alerts can be shared at any time via social media, guaranteeing only reliable information is being forwarded.

### Personal test alarm

A personal test alarm, restricted to the individual smart phone, provides a first glimpse of an alert.

### Data security and privacy

KATWARN was implemented with the highest degree of data security and anonymization. Also, no tracking: Each new location overwrites and erases the previous one.

### Battery consumption

Due to geo-localization via base stations and WLAN access points (no GPS), KATWARN only uses a small amount of the smartphone battery.

## Warnings related to places and topics

KATWARN provides warnings for the current location ("guardian angel") and for seven freely selectable location favorites (e.g. home, office and school) as well as topic-related subscriptions (e.g. for events and concerts).

This way, users can be reached with warnings and safety-relevant information, both in acute danger situations and as a preventive measure.

Location-based warnings propagate important information directly to those who are actually affected by a hazard, like a major fire or a bomb finding. Persons outside the danger area are not disturbed.

With the topic-related warnings, information is targeted and preventively sent to subscribers with specific interests, such as music concerts or public events. In case of a risky situation on the spot, they receive a notification, even if they have not yet arrived.

# People at the center

Today, many technologies in everyday life are digitally networked and can be linked to KATWARN. In order to further distribute warnings and to provide technical safety measures automatically, KATWARN strives for a networked security, which places people at the center of attention and gives them tangible benefits.

## Building technology

In order to automatically close windows or activate smoke detectors with voice output, the data provided by KATWARN can be processed by new home appliances and smart home applications.

© FooTToo/ iStock

## On-board computer

Intelligent vehicle systems and on-board computers are connected to the KATWARN app and provide information about hazardous locations.

© Chesky\_W/ iStock

## Cab call systems

Modern taxi systems receive warnings from authorities and mission control centers – for the safety of drivers and passengers!

© Cameris/ iStock

## News & websites

By linking editorial systems and using web links, KATWARN ensures the immediate display of warnings on news portals and information websites.

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## Public space

Digital advertising displays or time-tables at public stops inform about situations of danger on-the-spot or nearby.

© WALL AG

# www.katwarn.de/en

## Try it out!

Worldwide, the KATWARN application is available free of charge for:

- iPhone (App Store)
- Android Phone (Google Play Store)
- Windows Phone (Microsoft Store)

It allows to receive notifications all over the world accordingly to subscribed topics and locations. This multilingual app will use the language settings of your smart phone. However, the warning content itself is composed by the local authorities themselves and is therefore

provided in their official languages but to a large extend also multilingual.

Important note: Notifications will only be provided for locations and for occasions where the competent authorities have officially taken KATWARN into operation. For an overview of the places where KATWARN is currently in operation, please visit:

<https://www.katwarn.de/en/areas.php>

Active warnings are displayed at:

[www.katwarn.de/en](http://www.katwarn.de/en)



Download the KATWARN application free of charge

## Sender of warnings

KATWARN is internationally available as a tool for the targeted transmission of authorized warnings. Every organization or authority that uses KATWARN has access to a specially designed editorial system developed by Fraunhofer FOKUS. This way, the affected areas or groups of recipients can be easily, safely and quickly selected, warning texts can be written and sent out.

Note, that as a technical distribution system, KATWARN neither creates warning on its own nor has any influence on the content, scope and time of the warnings.

In order to ensure that the warnings transmitted are authorized, the authorities and safety facilities shall conclude a formal user agreement before KATWARN is released. Also, industrial companies use KATWARN to provide security to their employees, visitors, and customers – but only on their area of responsibility.

Now, what kind of hazards are warned? – Actually, any kind! Here are some examples of common warning events.

# WARNING EXAMPLES



Major fire



Bomb find



Burst



Gas line defect



Drinking water accident



Chemical spill



Extreme weather



Storm surge



Bursting of a dike



Coastal pollutant accident



Forest fire



Pandemic

## Using KATWARN

### Population

KATWARN is available to the population free of charge. The system and the technical infrastructure as well as its operation and further development are supported by private partners as a contribution to the common good.

### Authorities

KATWARN is available to all security authorities and scalable according to the specific requirements of territorial authorities or areas of responsibility. Besides implementation and customizations, the KATWARN-team helps with the staff training, technical support and marketing.

### Industrial companies & safety facilities

The implementation of KATWARN in companies and other facilities varies according to its scope and functionality. However, in order to meet existing and new requirements in the best possible way, the system is continuously being developed and optimized.

### Cooperations and partnerships

Besides connecting further authorized originators of warning content, KATWARN aims to achieve a new level of interconnection by providing warning information to any kind of digital information channel.

## Industry and critical infrastructures

Companies also bear responsibility for protection and safety. However, it is important to them that safety-critical information does not reach the public directly. For this reason, they use KATWARN as a pure company system that provides employees, customers and guests with internal (non-public) warnings in case of danger.

To this end, the range of KATWARN can be limited to defined areas (e.g. the factory premises) or to specific groups of people (e.g. employees in crisis regions).

For areas with a high volume of people, such as airports or exhibition halls, KATWARN also sends important and, if necessary, preventive security information to the affected customers, guests and visitors regardless of their location (e.g. on arrival).

By combining warnings, updates and all-clear alerts, as well as the various warning levels (information, warnings, extreme hazards), KATWARN also supports the management of warning processes and the continuous monitoring of the status quo.

Together with KATWARN messages from neighboring cities or districts, this ensures coordinated crisis communication across different areas of responsibility.

All these capabilities – defining the range of messages according to location and target group as well as supporting comprehensive warning processes – make KATWARN a suitable aid for corporate security.

## International

The world is growing together and security issues are no longer confined to individual countries. KATWARN takes this into account and is the first internationally networked population warning system.

Countries that have implemented KATWARN for their populations, thus are strengthening a uniform approach to crisis communication across national borders. This is a strong advantage for the population, as it does not have to adapt to other “standards”, but is addressed in an internationally uniform manner in the event of danger.

### **KATWARN roaming**

Thanks to its special KATWARN-Roaming technology, the KATWARN app users receive warnings for their respective location even abroad when the guardian angel is activated. Although each country has the possibility to publish its own “national” KATWARN application, “one” KATWARN app is sufficient to receive all warnings.

### **Receive alerts worldwide**

Alerts on selected favorite locations and theme subscriptions are delivered worldwide. This way, for example every warning for the home town can be received during the holiday trip.

### **Worldwide in all App Stores**

The KATWARN app can be downloaded free of charge from all app stores worldwide (iOS, Android, Windows), in order to enable people with a foreign mobile phone contract to use the warning system.

### **Multilingualism and target groups**

Warnings are only useful when people understand them and act upon them. This also includes reaching people with different cultural and social backgrounds in equal measure. Depending on your smartphone's system settings, the KATWARN app will therefore display warnings in different languages. In addition, the design of the warnings was examined in international research projects.

*A warning proves only effective if it reaches the affected people anywhere and anytime.*





**Play it safe and feel free to  
contact us for further information!**

## Contact persons



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KATWARN was developed by Fraunhofer FOKUS on behalf of Germany's public insurers as a contribution to the common good. It has been successfully in use since 2011.

[www.katwarn.de/en](http://www.katwarn.de/en)

