Presentation for the
Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction (SDR)
of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC)

The International Register of Alerting Authorities

Presented April 5, 2012 by

Eliot Christian <echristian@usgs.gov>

Topics Outline

- What is the international Register of Alerting Authorities?
- Why is the Register necessary?
- What are the key features of the Register?
- How are the Register entries maintained?
- How are U.S. alerting authorities represented in the Register?

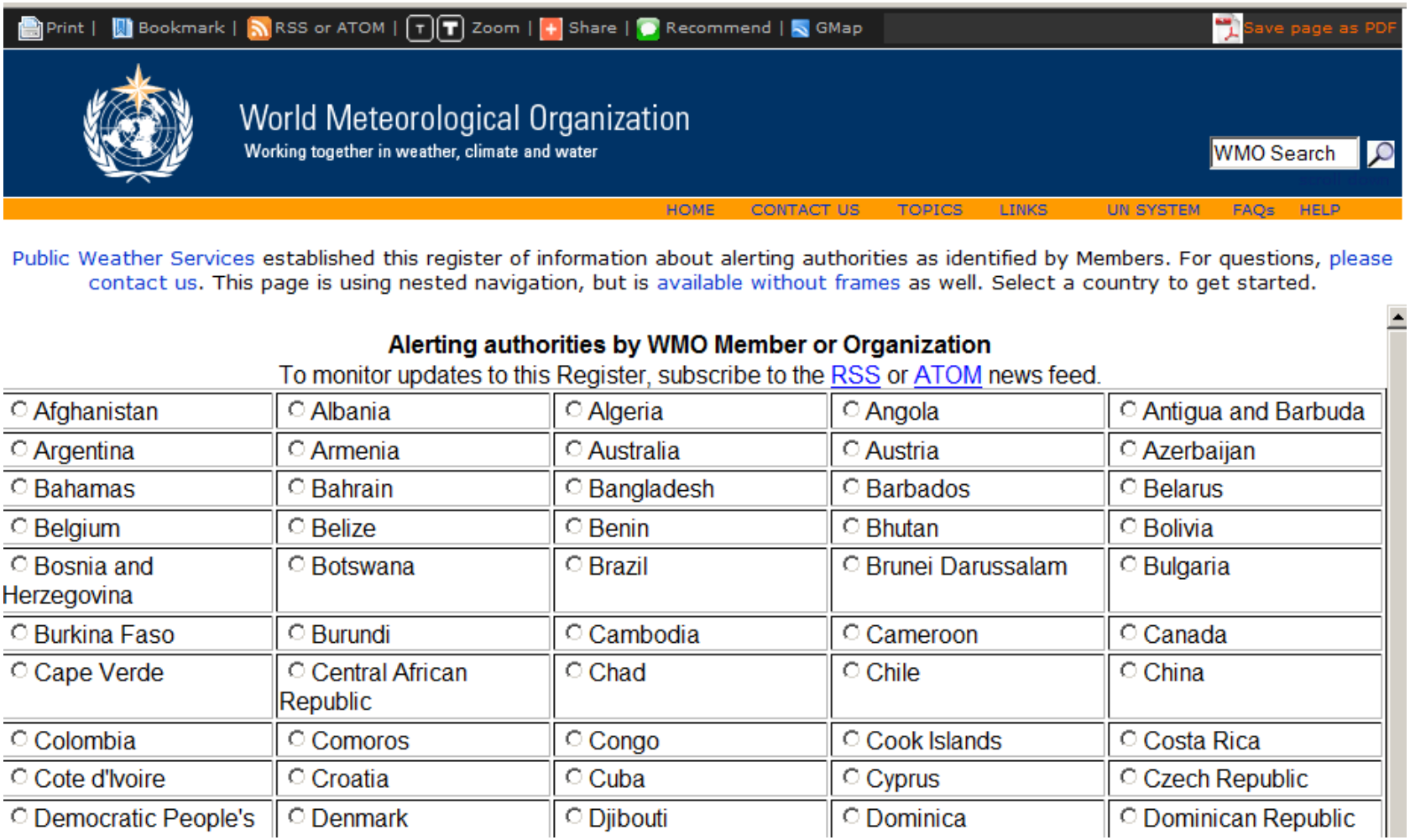
What is the international Register of Alerting Authorities?

- Established by WMO (Public Weather Services) and ITU-T (using the OID register)
- Identifies officially recognized alerting authorities, asserted by WMO Members (treaty among 183 nations and 6 territories)
- Register has categories of alert messages, plus URL's for forecasts and CAP messages
- Users of alert messages and others can subscribe to a news feed to stay current with any changes to the Register

Why is the Register necessary?

- Aggregators and other intermediaries typically lack direct knowledge needed to distinguish an authoritative source of alert messages
- This lack becomes more critical as alerting makes more use of large public networks
- The Register of Alerting Authorities is a reference to address that knowledge gap
- Each Register entry asserts that a particular source of alert messages is regarded by a WMO Member as authoritative for particular categories of hazards over a particular area

What are the key features of the Register?



Print | Bookmark | RSS or ATOM | Zoom | Share | Recommend | GMap Save page as PDF

World Meteorological Organization
Working together in weather, climate and water

WMO Search

HOME CONTACT US TOPICS LINKS UN SYSTEM FAQs HELP

Public Weather Services established this register of information about alerting authorities as identified by Members. For questions, please contact us. This page is using nested navigation, but is available without frames as well. Select a country to get started.

Alerting authorities by WMO Member or Organization

To monitor updates to this Register, subscribe to the RSS or ATOM news feed.

Afghanistan	Albania	Algeria	Angola	Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina	Armenia	Australia	Austria	Azerbaijan
Bahamas	Bahrain	Bangladesh	Barbados	Belarus
Belgium	Belize	Benin	Bhutan	Bolivia
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Botswana	Brazil	Brunei Darussalam	Bulgaria
Burkina Faso	Burundi	Cambodia	Cameroon	Canada
Cape Verde	Central African Republic	Chad	Chile	China
Colombia	Comoros	Congo	Cook Islands	Costa Rica
Cote d'Ivoire	Croatia	Cuba	Cyprus	Czech Republic
Democratic People's	Denmark	Djibouti	Dominica	Dominican Republic

OID: 2.49.0.0.840.0 WMO Member: United States of America ISO 3166: US USA 840

Issuing Organization: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

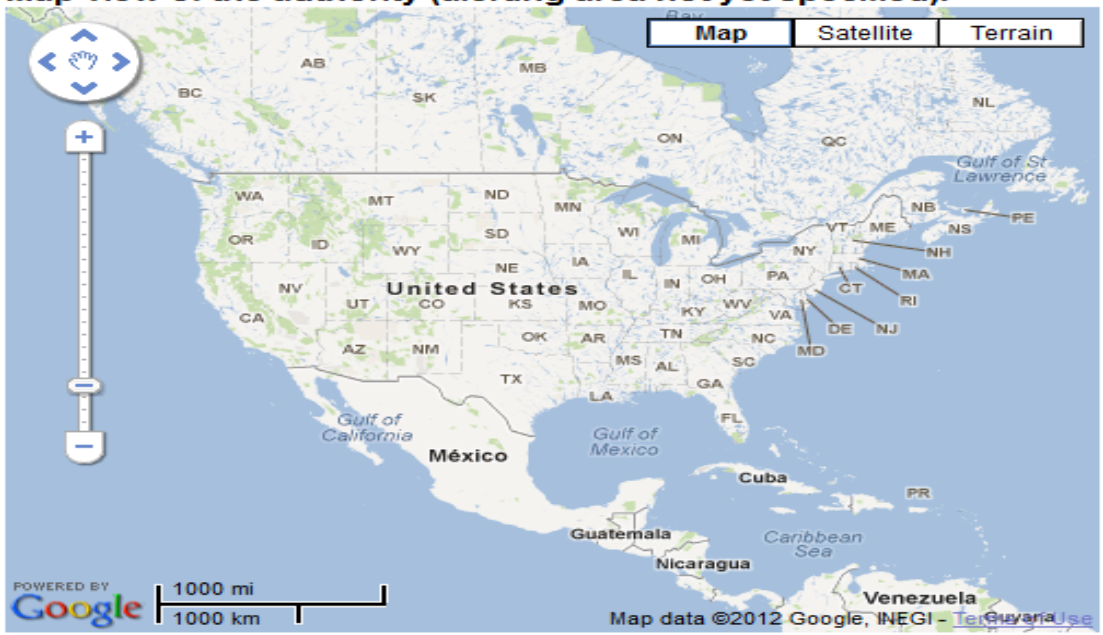
Hazard Categories: Geo Met Fire Health Env CBRNE

Authorization Basis: The National Weather Service Organic Act of 1890, currently codified as amended in section 313 of title 15 of the federal statutory code (called the United States Code) authorizes the National Weather Service to issue and distribute warnings of environmental hazards. The authority is summarized as: The National Weather Service (NWS) provides weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters and ocean areas, for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy. NWS data and products form a national information database and infrastructure which can be used by other governmental agencies, the private sector, the public, and the global community. In addition, the National Weather Service supports the Emergency Alert System and provides, in coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, public dissemination of critical pre-event and post-event information of all hazards, including natural disasters and terrorist events. The National Weather Service all-hazards support authority emanates primarily from the National Response Framework as authorized by The Homeland Security Act of 2002, codified predominantly as amended in sections 101 to 557 of title 6 of the United States Code, and The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, codified as amended sections 5121 to 5206 of title 42 of the United States Code.

CAP Feed URL: http://www.weather.gov/alerts/

Forecasts URL: http://www.worldweather.org/093/m093.htm

Map view of the authority (alerting area not yet specified).



Hazard Categories

Geo: Geophysical (earthquakes, volcanoes, etc., includes landslide)
Met: Meteorological (weather, storms, etc. includes flood)
Safety: General emergency and public safety
Security: Law enforcement, military, homeland and local/private security
Rescue: Rescue and recovery
Fire: Fire suppression and rescue
Health: Medical and public health
Env: Pollution and other environmental
Transport: Public and private transportation
Infra: Utility, telecommunication, other non-transport infrastructure
CBRNE: Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear or High-Yield Explosive threat or attack
Other: Other events

RSS Feed for Changes in Registered Authorities

```
<rss version="2.0" xmlns:georss="http://www.georss.org/georss"
  xmlns:cap="urn:oasis:names:tc:emergency:cap:1.1">
- <channel>
    <title>World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Register of Alerting Authorities</title>
    <link>http://www-db.wmo.int/alerting/rss.xml</link>
    <description>WMO maintains this register of statements by WMO Members concerning
      the scope of official alerting authorities and locations of online sources.</description>
    <language>en-us</language>
    <pubDate>Fri, 11 Mar 2011 13:14:14+01:00 GMT</pubDate>
    <lastBuildDate>Fri, 11 Mar 2011 13:14:14+01:00 GMT</lastBuildDate>
    <docs>http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/tech/rss</docs>
    <managingEditor>echristian@usgs.gov</managingEditor>
    <webMaster>echristian@usgs.gov</webMaster>
  - <item>
      <title>United States of America: National Oceanic and Atmospheric
        Administration</title>
      <link>http://www-db.wmo.int/alerting/authorities.asp?recId=177</link>
      <description>A WMO Member [United States of America] identifies National Oceanic
        and Atmospheric Administration as an alerting authority for hazard threats of
        these CAP categories: Geo Met Fire Health Env CBRNE.</description>
      <pubDate>Fri, 11 Mar 2011 13:14:14+01:00 GMT</pubDate>
      <guid>urn:oid:2.49.0.0.840.0</guid>
      <author>echristian@wmo.int</author>
      <category domain="http://www.itu.int/rec/T-REC-X.1303/en">Geo</category>
      <category domain="http://www.itu.int/rec/T-REC-X.1303/en">Met</category>
      <category domain="http://www.itu.int/rec/T-REC-X.1303/en">Fire</category>
      <category domain="http://www.itu.int/rec/T-REC-X.1303/en">Health</category>
      <category domain="http://www.itu.int/rec/T-REC-X.1303/en">Env</category>
      <category domain="http://www.itu.int/rec/T-REC-X.1303/en">CBRNE</category>
      <cap:category>Geo</cap:category>
      <cap:category>Met</cap:category>
      <cap:category>Fire</cap:category>
      <cap:category>Health</cap:category>
      <cap:category>Env</cap:category>
      <cap:category>CBRNE</cap:category>
    </item>
```

The Register itself is linked to the ISO/ITU OID Tree

OID Repository

http://www.oid-info.com

Home | Tree display | Search OID | FAQ

Display OID: Go

joint-iso-itu-t(2) › alerting(49)

wmo (0)

child OIDs: • authority(0) • country-msg(1) • org(2) • org-msg(3)

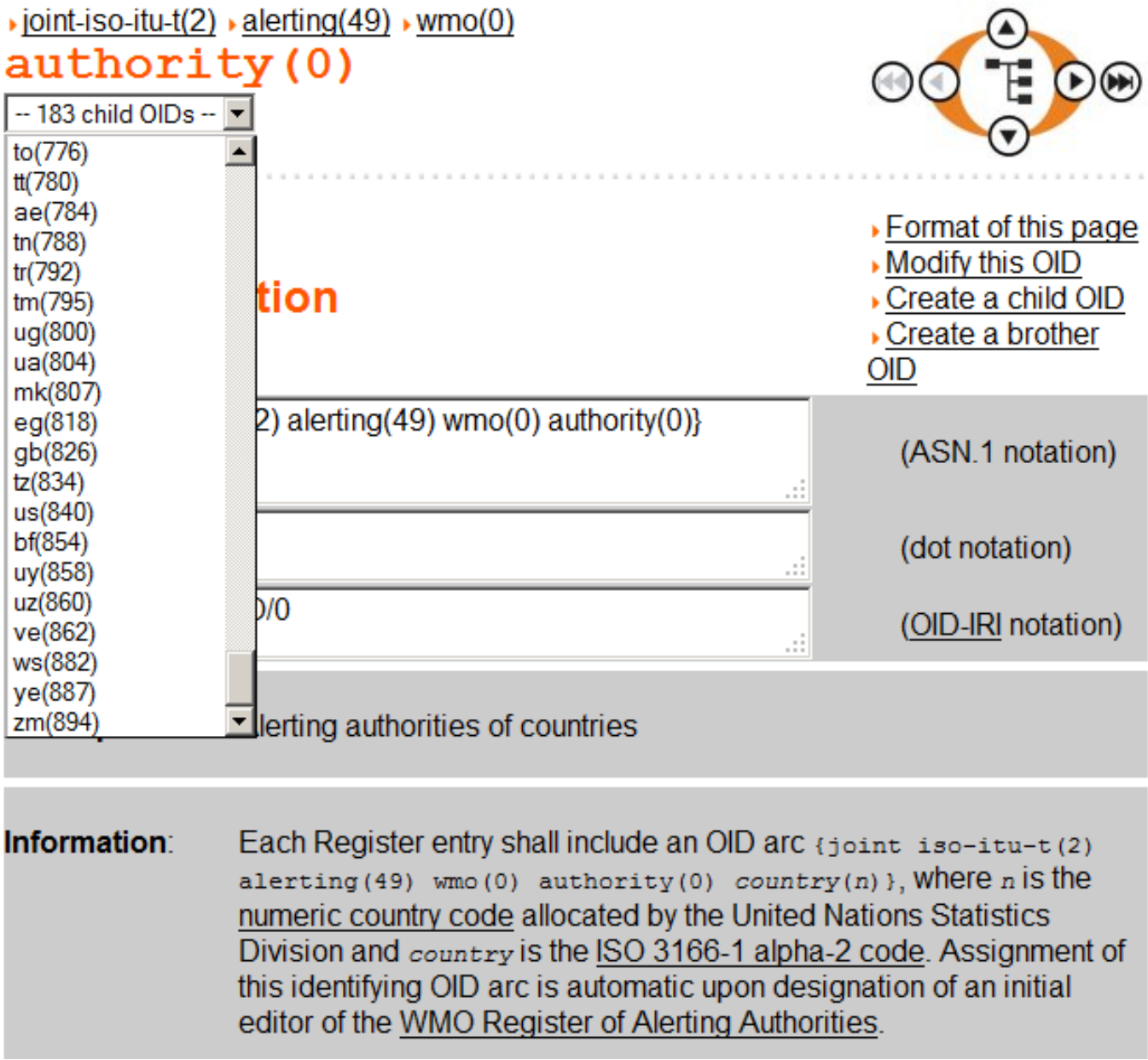
OID description

- Format of this page
- Modify this OID
- Create a child OID
- Create a brother OID

OID:	{joint-iso-itu-t(2) alerting(49) wmo(0)}	(ASN.1 notation)
	2.49.0	(dot notation)
	/Alerting/WMO	(OID-IRI notation)

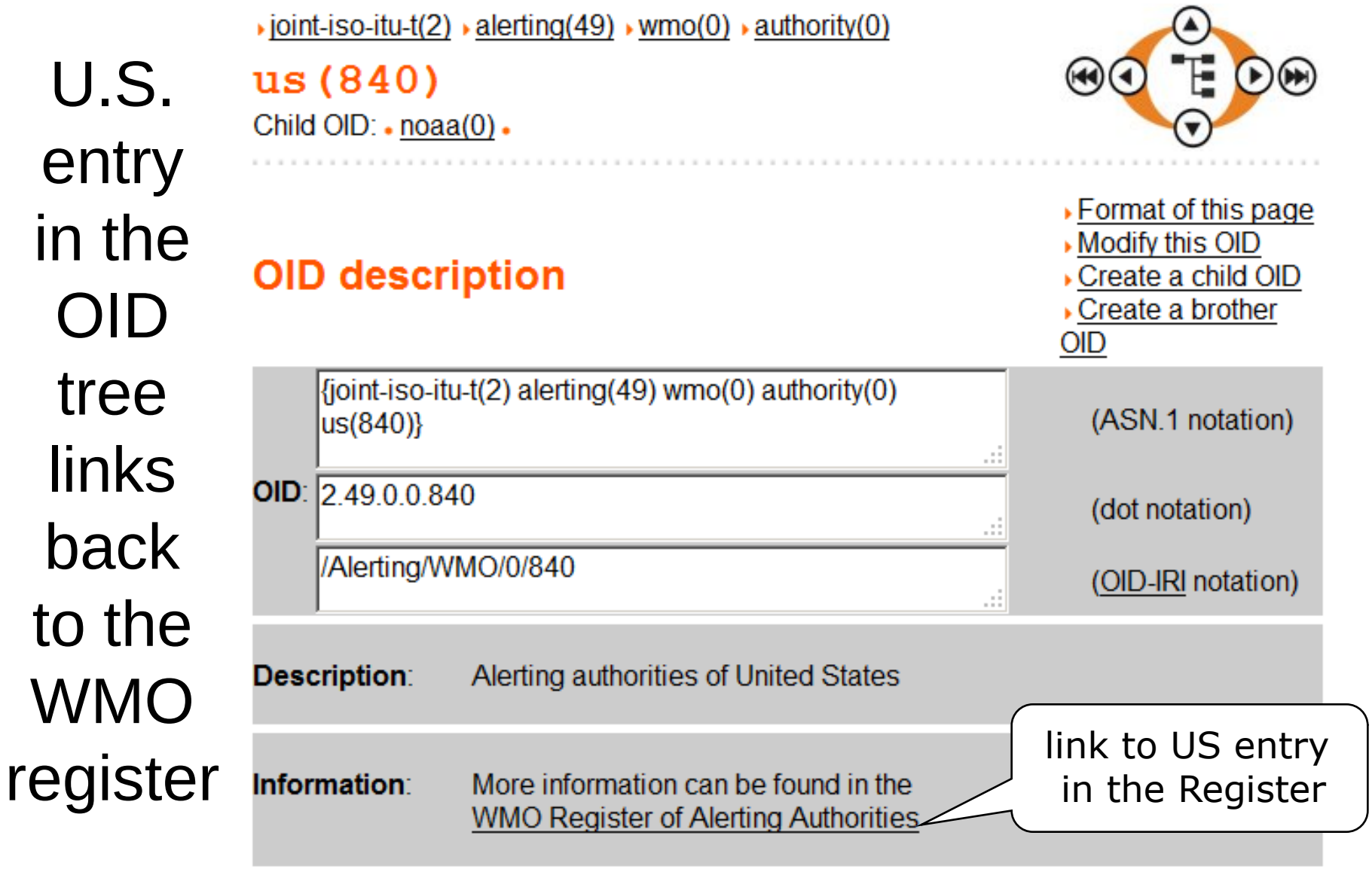
http:/www.oid-info.com/get/2.49.0

Register entries are typically linked to a nation



http:/www.oid-info.com/get/2.49.0.0

U.S. entry in the OID tree links back to the WMO register



http:/www.oid-info.com/get/2.49.0.0.840

How are the Register entries maintained?

- A Letter was sent to all PR's with WMO in November 2009 describing the Register
- Each PR should have responded by designating an "editor" to maintain the Register records for all alerting authorities asserted by the Member
- The editor is then approved by PWS and selects a personal password
- Each editor should then maintain the Register entries on behalf of the Member

How are U.S. alerting authorities represented in the Register?

"the National Weather Service...provides, in coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, public dissemination of critical pre-event and post-event information of all hazards, including natural disasters and terrorist events. The National Weather Service all-hazards support authority emanates primarily from the National Response Framework as authorized by The Homeland Security Act of 2002, codified predominantly as amended in sections 101 to 557 of title 6 of the United States Code, and The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, codified as amended sections 5121 to 5206 of title 42 of the United States Code."

http://www-db.wmo.int/alerting/authorities.asp?recId=177

The U.S. has many alerting authorities

Update U.S. Entries in the Register

- Should SDR support NWS in updating the Register with U.S. Federal agency entries?
- Should Register entries correspond to the approved IPAWS COG ’s?

Register of Alerting Authorities

http://www.wmo.int/alertingorg

D I S C U S S I O N ?

Administrative Procedure for Registering WMO Alerting Identifiers

PWS-20 WMO/TD No. 1556

http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/amp/pwsp/documents/AIR_PWS-20.pdf