



MEDIA RELEASE

Emergency Management

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Nationwide Emergency Alerting Test on October 3

Sept. 20, 2018 @ 11:00 AM:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will conduct a nationwide test of the [Emergency Alert System \(EAS\)](#) and [Wireless Emergency Alerts \(WEA\)](#) on October 3 at 1:20pm Central Daylight Time.

The tests will assess our readiness for a national message and determine whether improvements are needed. The EAS test goes to radio and television stations, cable systems, and wireline video providers and lasts about one minute, with the following message:

“THIS IS A TEST of the National Emergency Alert System. This system was developed by broadcast and cable operators in voluntary cooperation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Federal Communications Commission, and local authorities to keep you informed in the event of an emergency. If this had been an actual emergency an official message would have followed the tone alert you heard at the start of this message. A similar wireless emergency alert test message has been sent to all cell phones nationwide. Some cell phones will receive the message; others will not. No action is required.”

Cell towers will broadcast the WEA test for approximately 30 minutes beginning at 1:18 p.m. CDT. **During this time, WEA compatible cell phones that are switched on, within range of an active cell tower, and whose wireless provider participates in WEA should be capable of receiving the test message.** Some cell phones will not receive the test message, and cell phones should only receive the message once. The WEA test message will have a header that reads "Presidential Alert" and text that says:

“THIS IS A TEST of the National Wireless Emergency Alert System. No action is needed.”

The WEA system is used to warn the public about dangerous weather, missing children, and other critical situations through alerts on cell phones. The national test will use the same special tone and vibration as with all WEA messages (i.e. Tornado Warning, AMBER Alert). Users cannot opt out of receiving the WEA test.

This test was originally planned for September 20, 2018 but was postponed until October 3, due to response efforts to Hurricane Florence.

For further information about the test, go to <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-alert-test>.