
PRESS RELEASE

Nationwide Test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS)

Test to occur on Wednesday, November 9th at 1 PM CST.

Dallas, Texas: The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will conduct the first ever *Nationwide* test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) on Wednesday, November 9 at 1 PM (CST).

The EAS is a public alert and warning system that enables Local, State and Federal emergency officials, to include the President of the United States, to address the public during extreme emergencies.

“This Nationwide test of the EAS will be similar to the frequently conducted local tests,” said Josh Roberts, Emergency Management Specialist at the City of Dallas Office of Emergency Management. “The only big difference is that this Nationwide test will be initiated at the Federal level, with the intent of being broadcast simultaneously to all local radio and television, cable, and satellite service providers across the U.S.,” he added.

“The test should last about three minutes, and then regular programming should resume,” Roberts said, “and during this test the public should hear or see a message indicating that *‘This is a test’*.”

Calls to 9-1-1 to get information about the EAS test should NOT be made. Too many non-emergency calls to 9-1-1 may overwhelm the call-takers and could potentially mean a delayed response for those who have a real emergency.

This test is part of an on-going effort to ensure the effectiveness and readiness of the National EAS, and to ensure the ability to timely alert and warn the public in the event of a major national emergency. More information on the EAS and this Nationwide test can be found at fema.gov/emergency/ipaws.

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