

Brian Sandoval
Governor



Chris Perry
Director

Christopher B. Smith
Chief
Division of Emergency
Management/Homeland Security

November 1, 2011

Media Release

First Nationwide Test of The Emergency Alert System *Test to Take Place November 9 at 2 p.m. EDT*

On November 9, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. eastern standard time, the federal government will conduct the first nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS). The test will last up to three and a half minutes. During this period, regularly scheduled television, radio, cable, and satellite shows will be interrupted as the system is being tested. The Nevada Department of Public Safety- Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security would like to ensure that the citizens of Nevada and the general public are aware that this event will be a test, and not a real emergency alert.

“A critical element in any emergency is the delivery of accurate information,” said Chris Smith, Chief of the Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security. “The National EAS Test helps to insure that in a time of need, information can be delivered to members of the public in a usable form, in an efficient manner. Nevadan’s will be better informed in emergencies because of these testing efforts.” Remember, Make a Plan, Assemble a Kit, and Stay Informed!

The test is being conducted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), as part of their ongoing efforts to keep the nation safe during emergencies and strengthen our resilience against all hazards.

The national Emergency Alert System is an alert and warning system that can be activated by the president, if needed, to provide information to the American public during emergencies. NOAA’s National Weather Service, governors, and state and local emergency authorities also use parts of the system to issue more localized emergency alerts. The test is an important exercise in ensuring that the system is effective in communicating critical information to the public in the event of a real national emergency.

Similar to emergency alert system tests that are already conducted frequently on the local level, the nationwide test will involve television and radio stations across the United States, including Alaska, Hawaii, and the territories of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and American Samoa.

Under the FCC's rules, radio and television broadcasters, cable operators, satellite digital audio radio service providers, direct broadcast satellite service providers and wireline video service providers are required to receive and transmit presidential EAS messages to the public.

A national test will help federal partners and EAS participants determine the reliability of the system, as well as its effectiveness in notifying the public of emergencies and potential dangers both nationally and regionally.

The test will also provide the FCC and FEMA a chance to identify improvements that need to be made to build a modernized and fully accessible Emergency Alert System.

The Nevada Department of Public Safety – Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security along with FEMA, encourages the public to use this event as a reminder that everyone should establish an [emergency preparedness kit](#) and [emergency plan](#) for themselves, their families, communities, and businesses. Visit www.Ready.gov for more information about how to prepare for and stay informed about what to do in the event of an actual emergency.

WHAT: National Test of the Emergency Alert System

WHEN: 11:00 AM PST (2:00 PM EST) November 9th, 2011

WHERE: KKOH, 595 E. Plumb Lane, Reno
KDWN, 1455 E. Tropicana, #800

Or your favorite local radio or television station

CONTACT: Adrienne Abbott, Nevada EAS Chair, 775-750-5987

For more information, see the following websites:

FCC: <http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/emergency-alert-system-nationwide-test>

Broadcast Warning Working Group: <http://eas.radiolists.net/>

National Association of Broadcasters: <http://www.nab.org/>

Nevada Broadcasters Association: www.nevadabroadcasters.org

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