

November 9, 2011, NWR Required Weekly Test (RWT) Rescheduled or Canceled

- The National Weather Service (NWS) has rescheduled the NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) Required Weekly Test (RWT) from Wednesday, November 9, 2011, to Tuesday, November 8, to mitigate any potential confusion that could arise from the Nationwide Emergency Alert System (EAS) Test scheduled for November 9 at 2:00 PM Eastern Standard Time.
- Local NWS offices and NWS Regional Offices may elect to cancel the NWR RWT test for that week after consultation with respective state emergency management officials, state emergency communications or EAS committees.
- If the rescheduled NWR RWT cannot be conducted because of potential severe weather on Tuesday, November 8, the test should be canceled for that week. The few locations that conduct a second NWR RWT test later in the day should make a reschedule/ cancellation decision after consulting with area emergency management, emergency communications, and EAS officials.
- No NWR RWT test should be conducted on Wednesday, November 9, 2011.



Rationale:

- The Nationwide EAS Test is scheduled for Wednesday, 9 November 2011, at 2:00pm Eastern Standard Time.
- NWR RWT is normally conducted each Wednesday, generally between 11am and 12noon local time and at a very few selected locations again later in the day.
- NWR stations will not carry the Nationwide EAS Test in most areas. (NWS and FEMA are working on improvements that include NWS receiving the national audio message and broadcasting it over the NWR network. During the nationwide EAS test, NWS will demonstrate the interfaces for receiving and capturing EAN live-code and audio messages. The NWR Improvement Project will be installed at NWS offices nationwide in 2012. After those improvements are complete, updates will include broadcasting the EAN live code and audio over all NWR stations nationwide.)
- Conducting the NWR RWT on Tuesday, November 8, gives EAS Participants opportunity to confirm the day before the nationwide EAS test their EAS equipment is configured to monitor, receive and log a SAME/EAS message.
- If NWS postponed the Wednesday RWT until Thursday, the NWR RWT could conflict with the Nationwide EAS Test if for any reason it were postponed one day.

If NWS cancels the RWT for that week altogether, owners of certain public alert receivers may be alerted before the next scheduled RWT to check radio setup or radio reception because no alerts (including test alerts) were received for 10 consecutive days. Receivers with this self-check include the Reecom R1630 and Reecom R1650 that were distributed in the "Public Alert Radios for Schools" program and the Midland WR-300.