

# **First-Ever Nationwide EAS Test**

**Date & Time:** Wednesday, November 9, 2011, at **2:00 PM EST** (please convert to your local time).

**Purpose:** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will test the national-level Emergency Alert System (EAS) on radio and TV, not the newer Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) capability. [CAP will be tested in the future.]



**Length of Test:** The test message was shortened so the entire test is expected to last about 30 seconds down from the originally stated length between 3 and 3 ½ minutes.

**Effect on NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR):** The test will not be carried or broadcast on most NWR transmitters. A few NWR transmitters in the Pacific Northwest and other areas will broadcast the nationwide test. 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. NWR Improvement Project (WRIP) Phase II will be installed in the NWS Telecommunications Operations Center and at NWS offices nationwide through 2012. After those improvements are complete, NWS will install updates which include capability to broadcast the EAN live code and audio from FEMA over all NWR stations.

**Television video may NOT indicate “This is a test” but the audio will.** The Test may sound like the familiar, regular, local EAS tests on radio, but those viewing the test on television, cable or satellite video, the scroll and video screen may NOT indicate “This is a test.” The audio message will repeat “This is a test.”

**Effect on RMTs and RWTs:** The Nationwide EAS Test will take the place of the Required Monthly Test (RMT) – RMTs will not be required in November. The NWR Required Weekly Test (RWT), normally conducted by NWS offices each Wednesday, will be moved up to Tuesday, Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>, or at local option, cancelled for the week.

**How will the Test be Disseminated?:** The test will be disseminated nationwide through an NPR (National Public Radio) satellite channel as well as over a network of specially-designated Primary Entry Point (PEP) broadcast stations.

## **Following is Technical Information for Broadcasters:**

The EAS Originator Code will be Primary Entry Point (PEP) and the Location Code will be Washington, DC. The test will consist of the Emergency Action Notification (EAN) event code followed by the audio message and finishing with the End of message (EOM) code. Emergency Action Termination (EAT) code will not be used. EAS equipment manufacturers say the above will not be an issue, and no EAS unit re-programming is necessary.

## **Useful Links:**

FEMA Press Release on Nationwide EAS Test, EAS Test Toolkit & EAS Best Practices Guide:

- <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=55722>
- [http://www.fema.gov/emergency/ipaws/eas\\_info.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/emergency/ipaws/eas_info.shtm)
- [http://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/ipaws/national\\_eas\\_test\\_info\\_toolkit\\_081511.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/ipaws/national_eas_test_info_toolkit_081511.pdf)
- [http://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/ipaws/eas\\_best\\_practices\\_guide.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/ipaws/eas_best_practices_guide.pdf)

FCC Nationwide EAS Test FAQs, Consumer Guide, and PSAs:

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

FEMA’s National Dialogue On EAS webiste:

- <https://nationaldialogue-emergencyalertsystem.ideascale.com/>

NWS NWR Required Weekly Test Reschedule/Cancellation Information:

- <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/news.htm>