



LEWIS COUNTY DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

Date: September 26, 2023

On Wednesday, October 4, 2023, at 11:20 a.m. PST, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), will conduct a nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA).

The national test will consist of two portions testing WEA and EAS capabilities. Both tests are scheduled to begin at approximately 11:20 a.m. PST on Wednesday, October 4th. **DO NOT** call 9-1-1 to see if you received the test. **ONLY** call 9-1-1 if you have an actual emergency.

The WEA portion of the test will be directed to all consumer cell phones. This will be the third nationwide test, but the second test for all cellular devices. The test message will display in either English or in Spanish, depending on the language setting of the wireless handset.

The EAS portion of the test will be sent to radios and televisions. This will be the seventh nationwide EAS test.

The purpose of the October 4th test is to ensure the systems continue to be an effective means of informing the public of emergencies, particularly those on the national level. In the event the October 4th test is postponed due to widespread severe weather or other significant events, the backup testing date is October 11th.

All wireless phones should receive the message only once. The following can be expected from the nationwide WEA test:

- Beginning at approximately 11:20 a.m. PST, cell towers will broadcast the test for approximately 30 minutes. During this time, WEA-compatible wireless 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.
- For consumers, the message that appears on their phones will read: "THIS IS A TEST of the National Wireless Emergency Alert System No action is needed."
- Phones with the main menu set to Spanish will display: "ESTA ES UNA PRUEBA del Sistema Nacional de Alerta de Emergencia. No se necesita accion."

Important information about the EAS test:

- The EAS portion of the test is scheduled to last approximately one minute and will be conducted with the participation of radio and television broadcasters, cable systems, satellite radio and television providers, and wireline video providers.

- The test message will be similar to the regular monthly EAS test messages with which the public is familiar. It will state “This is a nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System, issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, covering the United States from 11:20 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. PST. This is only a test. No action is required by the public.

For more information on WEA or EAS please visit, www.ready.gov/alerts. Additionally, if you are interested in receiving local emergency alerts please sign up for Lewis County Alerts by visiting our webpage at: www.lewiscountywa.gov/departments/emergency-management/lewis-county-alert/. Again, **DO NOT** call 9-1-1 to see if you received the test. **ONLY** call 9-1-1 if you have an actual emergency.

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