Update: Tests Conducted Without Any Issues: FEMA Sets One-Minute Broadcast Test To Check Emergency Readiness

by Dan Brannan, Content Director
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Presidential Alert
THIS IS A TEST of the National Wireless Emergency Alert System action is needed.
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Radio and television programming nationwide will pause for about one minute on Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2026, as the Federal Emergency Management Agency tests the Emergency Alert System to identify technical and operational issues before an actual emergency.

FEMA's nationwide Emergency Alert System test went smoothly on Tuesday and concluded without any technical issues or required public action, officials said after it occurred.

The test, conducted in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission, is scheduled for approximately 1:20 p.m. CST, or 2:20 p.m. EST, according to information shared by the St. Clair County Emergency Management Agency and Madison County Emergency Management Agency. Both agencies said no action is required by the public.

Radio and television broadcasters, cable systems, satellite providers and wireline video providers will briefly interrupt regular programming to carry the test. Cellphones will not receive alerts because Wireless Emergency Alerts are not part of this test.

The broadcast will include standard accessibility tones and the following message: “This is a nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System, issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. This is only a test. No action is required by the public.”

Normal programming will resume after about one minute.

Federal law requires FEMA to conduct a nationwide test of the public alert and warning system at least once every three years. The last nationwide test was in October 2023.

The Emergency Alert System is a national public warning system composed of thousands of radio, television, cable, satellite and broadband providers. FEMA and the FCC are coordinating with participating communications providers and other stakeholders to prepare for the test.