

Missoula County Media Release

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Federal Agencies to Test Emergency Alert Systems Oct. 3

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission, will conduct a nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) on Wednesday, Oct. 3. The WEA test will be pushed out to cell phones at 12:18 p.m. MDT, with the EAS test on radio and television broadcasts to follow at 12:20 p.m.

These two tests, originally scheduled for Sept. 20, will include the phrase "THIS IS A TEST." The WEA test will include the heading "Presidential Alert." No action is needed from the public for these tests. More details on the tests are online at <https://www.fema.gov/Emergency-Alert-Test>.

WEAs are push alerts transmitted via cell phone to warn the public about dangerous weather, missing children and other critical situations or threats. EAS alerts are familiar to most people as the alerts transmitted via TV and radio warning the public of imminent weather emergencies, such as severe thunderstorms and winter weather.

These alerts differ from the local emergency alert system that the Missoula County Office of Emergency Management employs. Smart911 uses geo-targeted alerts to warn residents and visitors of more localized hazards, such as evacuations. Residents are encouraged to sign up for Smart911 alerts at www.smart911.com.

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The Missoula County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) coordinates emergency response components in Missoula County and the City of Missoula. OEM is comprised of Missoula's [9-1-1 Center](#) and Missoula County [Disaster and Emergency Services \(DES\)](#).