



CITY OF STOCKTON NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Monday, November 7, 2011

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First Nationwide Test of the Emergency Alert System

(Stockton, CA) - On November 9, 2011, 11:00 a.m., Pacific Standard Time (PST), the federal government will conduct the first nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS). The test will last approximately three minutes. Regularly scheduled radio, television cable, satellite radio and television programming will be interrupted as the system is being tested. The City of Stockton, Stockton Fire Department, Stockton Police Departments and all emergencies responders have been made aware that this event is just a test and not a real emergency.

“Most citizens are familiar with tests that occur on a regular basis that interrupt radio or television programming,” explains interim Fire Chief Dave Rudat. “What is significant about this test is that all broadcast systems will be tested at the same time. We want to ensure the public that it is only a test of the public broadcast system. Emergency communications systems used by fire, police and other public safety personnel will not be interrupted.”

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The test is being conducted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), as part of their ongoing efforts to keep the nation safe during emergencies and strengthen our resilience against all hazards.

The national Emergency Alert System is an alert and warning system that can be activated by the President of the United States, if needed, to provide information to the American public during emergencies. The National Weather Service, state and local authorities, often use parts of the system to issue local emergency alerts.

This test is an important exercise in ensuring that the system is effective in communicating critical information to the public in the event of a real emergency. It will provide government agencies with information to improve the Emergency Alert System. In addition, it serves as a reminder and encourages the public to prepare for actual emergencies by assembling an emergency preparedness kit and an emergency plan for themselves, their families, communities, and businesses. Please visit www.ready.gov for more information about how to plan, prepare and stay informed in the event of an actual emergency.

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