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First Nationwide Test of Emergency Alert System (EAS) Set for November 9

Stanislaus County, CA - On November 9, at 11:00 a.m. Pacific Standard Time, the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) will be conducting the first-ever national test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS).

People can expect to hear the familiar EAS tone, a voice that says “this is a test,” and they may potentially see and/or hear a message on their television and/or radio. The EAS test will last less than 4 minutes. No action is needed or required on the part of the public; however, residents may want to use this test as a reminder to review, update and test their emergency plans and replenish their emergency supplies.

Chief Gary Hinshaw, Assistant Director of Emergency Services for Stanislaus County pointed out that, “While these tools are ones that emergency management uses for local emergencies, this is the first test initiated at the national level. The same methodology is used to transmit information to citizens by local government.”

This nationwide test will give federal, state and local officials the opportunity to make sure vital life-safety information can be communicated from the nation’s capital to the public via broadcasters and cable operators. This EAS test will officials and participants to identify and address potential problems in the system before another real emergency occurs.

The nationwide EAS test is being coordinated by the Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Weather Service (NWS).

If you have any questions regarding the EAS test scheduled for November 9, or would like information on how to prepare for an emergency, please visit the Stanemergency.com website, or contact the Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services at (209) 552-3600.

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