

COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

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RE: **Nationwide Test of EAS System**

At 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 9, the FCC and FEMA will jointly conduct a nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) for the very first time.

It should last about three minutes. Typical test messages run about two minutes.

The FCC says the purpose is to assess the reliability and effectiveness of the system in alerting the public by using the following communications service providers:

- Broadcast radio and TV
- Satellite radio and TV
- Cable TV
- Wireline video services

Mobile devices will not receive the test message.

An audio track will accompany the message, informing the public that “this is a test” of the system.

However, the EAS message will use a “live” national code – the same code used in an actual emergency. As a result, there may be instances where the message will appear “real” due to any audio or visual limitations of EAS.

The Office of Emergency Preparedness will staff a watch officer to monitor the progress of the nationwide EAS test, as well as any influx of citizen inquiries.

At this time, the activation of public inquiry phone lines is being considered. If that occurs, the number will be published to you.

More information about the EAS test can be found here:

<http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/emergency-alert-system-nationwide-test>

For more information, contact Montgomery County Department of Public Safety at 610-631-6530.