

Dear Emergency Management Partners,

This message is a follow up to outreach from TDEM regional field staff regarding the upcoming statewide drill of local public warning systems.

In case you may have missed it, the Texas State Emergency Operations Center is sharing the following message for your awareness and action.

The ability to efficiently and effectively warn our public of emergency situations is critical to community safety. Landline based emergency notification systems, wireless emergency alerting (WEA) and Integrated Public Warning systems (IPAWS) are tools we use to alert the public. Regular testing of public warning systems is critical to ensuring accurate and timely communication during disasters and emergencies. As part of TDEM's commitment to readiness, we are scheduling a coordinated statewide drill of all local alerting systems.

In accordance with Chapter 418.043 of the Texas Government Code, which prescribes that TDEM shall adopt standards and requirements for local and interjurisdictional emergency management plans, along with additional provisions that address the agency's authority to assign training, the test will be conducted on **April 2, 2026**. The testing window is 10:00a – 12:30p CST to ensure unified coordination. Local alerting authorities shall utilize their **primary, alternate, and contingency** systems to ensure appropriate continuity withing their alerting processes.

Purpose of the Drill:

This exercise helps confirm system functionality, build confidence in activating and operating the technology, prepares the community to receive emergency messages, prompts community members to consider making a plan for disasters, and identify areas for improvement before an actual emergency occurs.

Action Required:

- Prior to the drill, provide multiple public notices to inform your community that a test will occur and confirm that no emergency is happening.
- Conduct a test of your alerting systems at the designated time.
- At a minimum, ensure your test messages clearly state that this is only a test.

Who Should Participate:

Designated alerting authorities within your city and county, along with local emergency management programs, are expected to participate in this effort. Additionally, school districts, primary and secondary education programs, colleges and universities, councils of government, river authorities, sovereign tribal nations, law enforcement agencies, and any other entities with emergency alerting capability shall also participate.

Post-Drill Reporting:

After the drill, please submit a brief summary including:

- Platforms used
- Population reached
- Key lessons learned
- Identified gaps
- Any other relevant details

Your participation helps demonstrate reliability of this important mechanism for the people we all serve. Thank you for your continued commitment to preparedness in Texas communities.

Questions may be directed to your TDEM regional field staff. Thank you.

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