



# Prineville 911 Center

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400 NE 3rd St Prineville, OR 97754 (541) 447-4168 Fax: (541) 447-8619

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**Chief Eric Bush**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: 911 Communications Director Tobie Reynolds  
(541) 447-4168, Fax: (541) 447-8619

## **Nationwide Emergency Alert System Test - UPDATE**

Prineville, Oregon

Update:

The nationwide EAS test on Nov. 9 has been shortened, a FEMA official confirmed.

According to an email distributed by the National Association of Broadcasters to a number of industry leaders today and forwarded to Radio World, NAB was informed by FEMA that the audio of the test at 2 p.m. (Eastern Time) will now last 30 seconds, instead of the originally planned two and a half minutes. IPAWS Program Manager Manny Centeno confirmed the decision to Radio World.

“This will result in a total test time of approximately 45 to 60 seconds (including the data burst tones),” according to the email by NAB’s Larry Walke.

“This change was made at the direction of Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano. NAB will be providing more information as we learn more and will be adjusting the messaging about the Nationwide EAS Test accordingly.

Reported earlier:

- FCC and FEMA are planning the **first** EAS nationwide test, which will take place at 11:00 AM (PST), Wednesday, November 9, 2011. The test will last approximately three (3) minutes. Normal programming will return following the test.
- FCC and FEMA are conducting a public relations campaign utilizing print, broadcast, and other media to prepare the public for the test and the fact that a "live" alert code is being used. The purpose of this outreach is to get the word out

about the Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> test to all members of the public. It is important to understand that this is only a test. Please do not call 911 unless you are reporting an actual emergency.

- The November 9 test will utilize a "live" national alert code, *i.e.*, a coded message that will present itself as an **actual emergency announcement**, not a test. This is necessary in order to allow FCC and FEMA to test the actual working order reliability of legacy EAS equipment and the state of readiness of EAS operators and participants. Television stations are being encouraged to run a scroll at the bottom of the screen throughout the test stating that it is just a test.
- **On radio**, an audio message will precede the alert message announcing that the exercise is a Test Only. Other information will be broadcast after the test concludes.
- **On TV** – Nothing in the text crawl included in the test will indicate that “this is a test” **Thus, TV stations are strongly urged to display a text slide on screen during the test.**
- Additional information about the test is available at the FCC's website ([www.fcc.gov/nationwide EAS test](http://www.fcc.gov/nationwide%20EAS%20test) ).

Eric Bush  
Chief of Police