



PRESS RELEASE

TOMBALL OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1200 Rudel, Tomball, Texas 77375
(281) 351-7101 Fax: (281) 357-4714

For Immediate Release

Date: October 27, 2011
Contact: Randall F. Parr, Emergency Management Coordinator
Phone: (281) 351-7101

The City of Tomball has been advised that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the National Weather Service (NWS) will conduct the first-ever national-level test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS). The test will take place Wednesday, November 9, 2011 at 1:00 PM CST. The test may be up to three and a half minutes in length.

This test is similar to the way local emergency alert system tests are conducted; HOWEVER this will be the first nationwide test that is expected to be broadcast simultaneously over all communication service providers: television stations (including digital television, cable, satellite audio and television services) and broadcast radio stations across the U.S. and several U.S. territories. This nationwide wide EAS Test will help determine the reliability of the system and its effectiveness in notifying the public of emergencies and potential dangers nationally and regionally.

The test will last approximately three minutes and then regular programming will resume. Most of our residents are familiar with the local test which is performed periodically. The audio message will repeat "This is a test" however the video scroll may not so indicate.

Please do not become alarmed by the unusual length of time of this test. This is necessary to test the efficiency of the national level test.

If you have any questions regarding the test, please contact the Tomball Office of Emergency Management at 281-351-7101 or go to the following link:
<http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/emergency-alert-system-nationwide-test>