



PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: David Reid

David.Reid@santacruzcountycalifornia.gov

COUNTY TO TEST WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

On January 29 at approximately 3 p.m., the Santa Cruz County Office of Response, Recovery & Resilience will conduct a planned Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) test, part of ongoing efforts to protect the safety and security of the community.

The test will focus on flood inundation zones near the Pajaro River. At the same time, Monterey County Department of Emergency Management will also be testing their WEA system within their adjacent jurisdiction. Individuals in the test area may receive messages from both agencies.

Wireless Emergency Alerts are short emergency messages sent by authorized public safety agencies to mobile phones during life-threatening situations such as wildfires, floods, tsunamis, and other emergencies. This test is intended to confirm system readiness and improve the County's ability to quickly communicate critical information to the public during an emergency.

During the test, residents and visitors within Santa Cruz County may receive an alert that includes a loud tone and vibration, even if phones are set to silent. Messages on mobile phones will be clearly labeled "TEST" or "This is a test of the Santa Cruz County Wireless Emergency Alert system."

No action is required. The test helps emergency officials identify and resolve potential issues before a real emergency occurs. Not all mobile devices will receive the alert due to carrier, location or device factors, including phone settings.

Wireless Emergency Alerts are one of several tools the County uses to keep the community informed during emergencies. To sign up for regular alerts, visit CruzAware.org. For more information about emergency alerts, preparedness resources, and how the County communicates during disasters, visit [Alert Notification Application](#).