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WVDHHR will participate in nation-wide Emergency Alert System test Nov. 9

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources Center for Threat Preparedness (CTP) announced that West Virginia will be a part of the first-ever national test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) on November 9, 2011, at 2:00 p.m.

CTP Director Jerry Rhodes said, "The EAS allows officials to quickly send out important emergency information targeted to a specific area. In an emergency, this can be life saving information." EAS sends out alerts to broadcast media, cable television, satellites, pagers, Direct Broadcast Satellite, High Definition Television and Video Dial Tone. EAS also accounts for the needs of special populations such as the deaf and those with special language requirements.

Rhodes said, "The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and FEMA will be conducting the nation-wide test of the EAS as part of their larger efforts to strengthen our nation's preparedness and resiliency." The test will also help ensure that West Virginia residents will be able to receive the same information simultaneously as other states, so that a proper response or action may occur if needed.

The national test will help federal partners and EAS participants determine the reliability of the system as well as its effectiveness in notifying the public of emergencies and potential disasters both nationally and regionally. In 1996, the EAS replaced the Emergency Broadcast System (EBS).

More information about the EAS system is available at www.wvdhhr.org/healthprep.