



# Prepare for the Upcoming Nationwide EAS Test October 4, 2023

## What is Happening?

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will **conduct a nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) on Wednesday, October 4, 2023, at 2:20 p.m. ET.**

- If conditions on that date require the rescheduling of the test, the back-up date is October 11, 2023.

**This test aims to assess the operational readiness of the EAS and its effectiveness in alerting the public about emergencies.**

- As chief stewards of the EAS, broadcasters play a unique role in disseminating critical, lifesaving emergency information during times of crisis. The information below will help ensure a successful test of the system.

## What is the Timeline?

Broadcasters are required to submit specific filings in the Commission's EAS Test Reporting System (ETRS) by certain dates. **Failure to meet these deadlines may result in penalties.**

- EAS participants must update ETRS Form One to ensure its accuracy by submitting an **updated ETRS Form One on or before September 15, 2023.** Updates may include transfers of control, updates to EAS equipment or software, or revisions to your State EAS Plan.
- Participants must file **ETRS Form Two "day of test" data on or before October 5, 2023.**
- Participants must file **ETRS Form Three detailed post-test data on or before November 20, 2023.**

ETRS Forms Two and Three will become available in ETRS on October 4, 2023.

Click [here](#) for more information and for links to ETRS login and registration, and other guidance about the nationwide test.

## How Should My Station Prepare?

- Update Equipment.** Confirm that your EAS equipment, software and firmware are upgraded to their most recent versions.
- Review EAS Operating Handbook.** Familiarize yourself with the procedures and guidelines outlined in the [2023 EAS Operating Handbook](#).
- Review State EAS Plan.** Ensure that your EAS equipment is configured to monitor the EAS sources as indicated in your State EAS Plan.
- Synchronize Your Equipment.** Manually synchronize EAS equipment clocks to the official time provided by the National Institute of Standards and Technology if your equipment does not automatically synchronize to an internet time source.

## Need More Information?

- For more information, including how to access ETRS, reporting deadlines and other crucial information regarding the test, please visit the official [FCC](#) and [FEMA](#) websites.
- For background, broadcasters may want to review the FCC's [report on the last nationwide EAS test](#), which describes the performance of radio and television stations, and highlights significant issues observed during that test.