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Recovery News

FEMA TO WILDFIRE SURVIVORS: ALERT SYSTEM TO BE TESTED WEDNESDAY

AUSTIN, Texas — Understanding that Texas wildfire survivors are dealing with enough stress right now, the Federal Emergency Management Agency wants to ensure everyone is aware of the nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 9, at 1 p.m. local time.

“We’re asking that Texans, especially wildfire survivors, share this information with their children, friends, coworkers and neighbors now,” said Kevin L. Hannes, who is coordinating FEMA’s wildfire recovery mission in Texas. “Help us spread the word about the test, so no one is alarmed when it begins.”

The 30-second test will be similar to the Texas EAS alerts used to get thousands of people out of harm’s way during the wildfires. An audio message will interrupt all regularly scheduled television, cable and radio shows, indicating: “This is a test.”

The Federal Communications Commission and FEMA are conducting the first nationwide test of the EAS as part of their ongoing efforts to keep our country and communities safe during emergencies. The national EAS is a warning system that can be triggered by the president, if needed, to provide information to the public during emergencies.

For more information about the nationwide test, Texans can visit www.fema.gov and www.fcc.gov.

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Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-3362. For TTY call 800-462-7585.

The mission of the Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas Department of Public Safety, is to support the citizens of Texas and local jurisdictions as they plan for, respond to, recover from and mitigate the impacts of all hazards, emergencies and disasters. For more information, see: www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem.

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards. Follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/#!/femaregion6>, the R6 Hurricane Preparedness website at www.fema.gov/about/regions/regionvi/updates.shtm and the FEMA Blog at <http://blog.fema.gov>.