

Contact:
Francis Pagurek, EMC
Mount Laurel Twp. EMS
Phone 856-778-1274

201 Masonville Road
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054
Phone 856-778-1274
Fax 856-727-8281
fran.pagurek@mlems.org

**Mount Laurel Twp.
Office of Emergency
Management**

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**“On November 9 at 2 pm EST, Remember: Don’t stress; it’s only a test.”
FIRST NATIONWIDE TEST OF THE EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM**

Mount Laurel, NJ- , November 4, 2011; Today, Mount Laurel Office of Emergency Management announced that on November 9 at 2:00 p.m. eastern standard time, the federal government will conduct the first nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS). The test will last up to three and a half minutes. During this period, regularly scheduled television, radio, cable, and satellite shows will be interrupted as the system is being tested. Mount Laurel Office of Emergency Management would like to ensure that Mount Laurel Residents and the larger public are aware that this event will be just a test, and not a real emergency alert.

The test is being conducted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), as part of their ongoing efforts to keep the nation safe during emergencies and strengthen our resilience against all hazards.

The national Emergency Alert System is an alert and warning system that can be activated by the president, if needed, to provide information to the American public during emergencies. NOAA's National Weather Service, governors, and state and local emergency authorities also use parts of the system to issue more localized emergency alerts. The test is an important exercise in ensuring that the system is effective in communicating critical information to the public in the event of a real national emergency.

Similar to emergency alert system tests that are already conducted frequently on the local level, the nationwide test will involve television and radio stations across the United States, including Alaska, Hawaii, and the territories of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and American Samoa.

Under the FCC's rules, radio and television broadcasters, cable operators, satellite digital audio radio service providers, direct broadcast satellite service providers and wire line video service providers are required to receive and transmit presidential EAS messages to the public. A 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 dangers both nationally and regionally. The test will also provide the FCC and FEMA a chance to identify improvements that need to be made to build a modernized and fully accessible Emergency Alert System.

For Release 9 a.m. EDT, November 4, 2011

Mount Laurel Office of Emergency Management Coordinator Francis Pagurek also encourages Mount Laurel Residents and Businesses to also stay abreast of local emergencies by signing up for Nixle, visiting the Township's Ready or Not Web Site and by adding their mobile phone to receive Global Connect reverse 9-1-1 messages.

- Nixle is a free service that we are utilizing to send out alerts, advisories, traffic and community information via text messages and e-mails for incidents impacting Mount Laurel Township. To register go to www.nixle.com .
- www.ready-or-not.org/nj/mountlaurel is the Official Web Site for the Mount Laurel Office of Emergency Management where important local emergency information as well as emergency preparedness information and links can be found. Please bookmark this web site and visit it during adverse weather events and/or during local emergencies to receive local information.
- Global Connect is a reverse 9-1-1 system that is utilized by the Mount Laurel Office of Emergency Management to alert Mount Laurel Residents and Businesses to local emergencies via telephone. If you wish to also receive these messages on your cell phones go to www.co.burlington.nj.us/pages/ps/globalconnect.htm to have this number added.

Mount Laurel Office of Emergency Management, along with FEMA, encourages the public to use this event as a reminder that everyone should establish an [emergency preparedness kit](#) and [emergency plan](#) for themselves, their families, communities, and businesses. Visit www.Ready.gov for more information about how to prepare for and stay informed about what to do in the event of an actual emergency.