

Board of County Commissioners

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Emergency Alert System Test on October 3rd

Westminster, MD, Monday, October 1, 2018 – The Carroll County Department of Public Safety advises the public of two test emergency alerts taking place on October 3, 2018. Messages will be sent via television, radio, and text message and will have the heading “Presidential Alert.”

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will be conducting a first-ever nationwide test of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) on Wednesday, October 3, 2018. IPAWS encompasses the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alert System (WEA), which provides authenticated emergency alerts and information from emergency officials to warn the public of natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters or threats to public safety.

The WEA portion of the test commences at 2:18 p.m. EDT, and the EAS portion follows at 2:20 p.m. EDT. The message will be broadcasted on radio, TV, cable stations, cell phones, and Internet applications.

“In an effort to avoid unnecessary alarm, we are informing our citizens now to avoid concern. Alerts will be received in the form of loud tones and a pop up message on mobile phones,” said Carroll County Director of Public Safety Scott Campbell.

The WEA test message will alert and read:

“THIS IS A TEST of the National Wireless Emergency Alert System. No action is needed.”

The EAS message will read:

“THIS IS A TEST of the National Emergency Alert System. This system was developed by broadcast and cable operators in voluntary cooperation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Federal Communications Commission, and local authorities to keep you informed in the event of an emergency. If this had been an actual emergency, an official message would have followed the tone alert you heard at the start of this message. A similar Wireless Emergency Alert test message has been sent to all cell phones nationwide. Some cell phones will receive the message; others will not. No action is required.”

For more information visit: <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-alert-test>.

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CARROLL COUNTY

The Americans with Disabilities Act applies to the Carroll County Government and its programs, services, activities, and facilities. Anyone requiring an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or who has a complaint should contact The Department of Citizen Services, 410.386.3600 or 1.888.302.8978 or MD Relay 7-1-1/1.800.735.2258 or email ada@ccg.carr.org as soon as possible but no later than 72 hours before the scheduled event.