

Media Release



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Immediate Release

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ESA to test telephone warning system

The ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) today announced it will conduct its annual trial of the national telephone warning system, EMERGENCY ALERT, on Tuesday (7 June 2011) from 7pm.

“The successful first trial of EMERGENCY ALERT was conducted in December 2009 in the suburbs of Turner, Lyneham, O’Connor, Hall and Hume, and a second conducted in January 2010 in the suburbs of Fadden, Macarthur, Gowrie, Gilmore, Chisholm, Richardson, Uriarra Settlement, Pierces Creek Settlement, the Cotter excluding Mount Stromlo and CSIRO Black Mountain,” ESA Commissioner Mark Crossweller said.

“I’m pleased to say that some initial minor technical glitches identified as part of the tests have now been resolved with the system provider, Telstra,” he said.

“The third trial on Tuesday will be conducted in Dunlop from Ginninderra Drive through to the Dunlop Grasslands, and from the fire trail west of the Charnwood district playing fields, out to the West Belconnen Pond.

“The trial will allow the government to test the EMERGENCY ALERT system during a non-emergency to ensure its effectiveness and efficiency when the system is required during an emergency.

“EMERGENCY ALERT provides our emergency services with another option to alert the ACT community to an imminent or immediate threat or emergency situation. This will be in addition to existing measures in place in the ACT including real time radio, television and internet alerts and warnings via MOU agreements between the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) and local media outlets.

“People with a landline telephone in the chosen trial areas will receive a test EMERGENCY ALERT voice message featuring the Standard Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS) sound.

“People with a mobile phone who have their billing address within the chosen trial areas will receive a text test EMERGENCY ALERT message. This also means if your mobile phone billing address is within one of the chosen trial areas and you are not physically at that location at the time the test message is sent out you will still receive the test text message.

“People who receive the test EMERGENCY ALERT message will not be required to take any action.”

For more information about the EMERGENCY ALERT trial in the ACT go to the ACT Emergency Services website www.esa.act.gov.au or call Canberra Connect on 13 22 81.