



BERRIEN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY DIVISION

PRESS RELEASE

Date: 09/06/2022 1:00 PM

Contact: Captain Rockey Adams, (269) 983-7111 x 4916 , Radams1@berriencounty.org

Reference: Berrien County will TEST the wireless emergency alert system on SEPT 12, 2022 at 3:00PM

SAINT JOSEPH, MI – Berrien County Emergency Management officials will test the Wireless Emergency Alert system on Monday September 12, 2022 at 3:00 PM eastern time. The test will be limited to a 1.5 mile diameter area, centered near the Berrien County Jail, in parts of Saint Joseph and Benton Harbor. Anyone with a wireless emergency alert enable device, inside the target area will expect to receive the alert. When they get the alert, a link to a feedback survey will be in the message.

“Wireless Emergency Alerts, or WEA’s, are one important part of our early warning system in Berrien County,” said CPT Rockey Adams, the County’s Emergency Management Coordinator. “WEA’s are considered to be a siren inside of anyone’s pocket, but; they come with information on what the emergency is and how to avoid harm,” he added.

This particular test is designed to look at improvements that have been made to location-based alerts. Prior to these improvements, some devices would not recognize they were in the target area and fail to alert. Other devices outside of the target area would alert, despite not being in the target area. Cellular service and device providers have made many improvements to the system to ensure alerts go to those who need to be alerted. Officials have also worked on making sure “overshooting” an area is minimized.

“We want people to be confident in this system’s capabilities so they act immediately to protect themselves when an alert is sent out,” said CPT Adams. “People have a tendency to question if the alert is real, and this can cost them valuable time needed to take action. Our goal is to provide clear, timely information and send it to those who need it,” CPT Adams added.

When the alert is sent on September 12, 2022 at 3:00PM, it will contain the following text:

“TEST. Go to <https://www.fcc.gov/wea> to provide feedback on your receipt of this test.”

More information about this test, including maps of the target area can be found at:

<https://berriencounty.org/1861/09122022-WEA-Test>

###

919 Port Street, Saint Joseph, Michigan 49085

Phone (269) 983-7141 x4915 • Email bcoem@berriencounty.org

www.bcsheriff.org