

The UK-wide test of the Emergency Alerts system

**23 APRIL 2023
15:00**



URGENT SAFETY BULLETIN

“Emergency Alerts”

BELOW ARE THE DETAILS OF THE NATIONAL TEST OF THE UK EMERGENCY ALERT SERVICE.

On Sunday 23rd April 2023 at 3pm, there will be a national test of the UK Emergency Alerts service.

Emergency Alerts is a UK government service that will warn you if there's a danger to life nearby. In an emergency, your mobile phone or tablet will receive an alert with advice about how to stay safe.

The government does not need to know your phone number or location to send you an alert.

Reasons you might get an alert:

You may get alerts about:

- severe flooding
- fires
- extreme weather

Emergency alerts will only be sent by:

- the emergency services
- government departments, agencies and public bodies that deal with emergencies

What happens when you get an emergency alert?

Your mobile phone or tablet may:

- make a loud siren-like sound, even if it's set on silent
- vibrate
- read out the alert

The sound and vibration will last for about 10 seconds.

An alert will include a phone number or a link to the GOV.UK website for more information.

You'll get alerts based on your current location - not where you live or work. You do not need to turn on location services to receive alerts.

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How emergency alerts work

In an emergency, mobile phone masts in the surrounding area will broadcast an alert. Every compatible mobile phone or tablet in range of a mast will receive the alert.

Emergency alerts work on all 4G and 5G phone networks in the UK.

Your mobile phone or tablet does not have to be connected to mobile data or wifi to get alerts.

Emergency alerts are free. You do not need to sign up for them or download an app.

What you need to do

When you get an alert, stop what you're doing and follow the instructions in the alert.

If you're driving or riding when you get an alert

- You should not read or otherwise respond to an emergency alert whilst driving or riding a motorcycle.
- If you are driving, you should continue to drive and not respond to the noise or attempt to pick up the mobile phone and deal with the message.
- Find somewhere safe and legal to stop before reading the message. If there is nowhere safe or legal to stop close by, and nobody else is in the vehicle to read the alert, tune into live radio and wait for bulletins until you can find somewhere safe and legal to stop.

If you're working on Network Rail Managed Infrastructure when you get an alert:

- **You should not read or otherwise respond to an emergency alert whilst working on Network Rail Managed Infrastructure unless you are in a position of safety.**
- **If you are not in a position of safety, you should continue to work until it is safe to stop and then respond to the message.**

