



## Emergency Alerts system factsheet

### Upcoming national test

The UK's Emergency Alerts system will be tested nationally on **Sunday 7th September 2025** at around **1500 hours (3:00 PM)**. For more information, visit [gov.uk/alerts](https://gov.uk/alerts).

### About Emergency Alerts

The Emergency Alerts system enables people to be contacted via their mobile phone and tablet if their lives are at risk in an emergency. The system will be used to warn you about life-threatening emergencies, such as severe flooding.

Emergency Alerts are messages sent to compatible 4G and 5G mobile phones and tablets when there's a danger to life. Only the government and the emergency services can send them. You'll be able to check that an alert is genuine at [gov.uk/alerts](https://gov.uk/alerts). Emergency Alerts require no personal information (such as your telephone number, identity or location). Emergency Alerts are one-way and do not provide any feedback to the government.

Emergency Alerts will be just one of the many ways the government communicates with the public about emergency situations. So if you don't have a mobile phone, don't worry – you'll still be made aware through the media and local emergency services.

An Emergency Alert looks and sounds very different to other types of messages such as SMS 'text messages'. You'll know if you get an Emergency Alert because you'll hear a loud siren-like sound and your phone will use a distinct vibration. A message on your screen will tell you about the emergency and what you need to do. Depending on your phone's features, the alert will work with screen magnification and may read the message out for you having also overridden volume settings. The unique noise emitted by the phone should also be audible for those who use a hearing aid.

If you receive an alert, please read the message carefully and follow the instructions. Please remember their look and feel in case you receive one again.

You can opt out of Emergency Alerts, however, we strongly recommend that they are kept switched on, as the system is intended to warn you when lives are in danger. If you'd like to opt out, search your settings for 'emergency alerts' and turn off Emergency Alerts. If this does not work, please contact your device manufacturer. For further advice go to [gov.uk/alerts/opting-out](https://gov.uk/alerts/opting-out)



UK Government

## Warning for motorists

You **MUST NOT** hold a mobile phone while driving or riding a motorcycle. It is illegal to do so. If you receive an alert while driving, do not pick up your phone and attempt to deal with the message. Continue driving as normal, staying in full control of your vehicle. If you feel the need to look at your phone, you must find a safe and legal place to pull over first.