



**Huron County Emergency Management Agency,
9-1-1 and Office of Homeland Security**

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PRESS RELEASE

March 4th, 2024:

This is a revision to the press release issued on February 20th. Ohio Severe Weather Awareness week begins on March 17th, with the Ohio Statewide Tornado Drill taking place on March 20th. The Huron County Emergency Management Agency, in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) plans to conduct a Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) **TEST** in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Emergency Management and the National Weather Service (NWS) participating in the Ohio Statewide Tornado Drill on **March 20th, 2024 at 9:50am**. The purpose of this WEA **TEST** is to provide another simulation of impending severe weather as part of the Ohio Statewide Tornado Drill, to test the county's capability of the system with the upcoming solar eclipse event in April, emergency situations that may occur in the future, and to ensure emergency management officials are familiar and trained with the system in case of an event within the county that warrants an emergency alert issuance. The Statewide Tornado Drill is a **TEST** tornado warning that's issued at a predetermined time to give an opportunity for schools, businesses, and residents to practice their severe weather plan.

WEAs are short text-like emergency messages from authorized federal, state, local, tribal and territorial public alerting authorities that can be broadcast from cell towers to any WEA compatible mobile device in a locally targeted area. Wireless providers primarily use cell broadcast technology for WEA message delivery. The WEA test alert will state **"This is the Huron County Emergency Management Agency conducting a TEST. No action required"**.

Both the WEA **TEST** and Statewide Tornado Drill will occur on **March 20th, 2024 at 9:50am**. As part of the Statewide Tornado Drill, NOAA Weather Radios, televisions and radio will activate across the state with a test message and outdoor warning sirens will be activated in Huron County. As part of the WEA test, all persons in Huron County can expect to receive a test alert message on their compatible mobile devices. However, it's likely persons in adjacent counties near the Huron County border may also receive the test on their compatible mobile devices. Lastly, persons signed up with Huron County Alerts (WENS) can expect to receive a standard text message of the test. We encourage businesses, schools, and residents to practice their severe weather plan during that time. We ask residents not to call 9-1-1 regarding the test. This test will be postponed if inclement weather is forecast to affect the area on the day of the test. If you have any questions, please contact the Huron County Emergency Management Agency at (419) 663-5772 or Kstevens@huroncountyema.com.

Thank you,

Kye Stevens
Huron County Emergency Management Agency