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**Sent:** Monday, December 21, 2009 2:17 PM

**To:** Abbott, Sara (HSS); Aleutians East Borough; Bristol Bay Borough; City and Borough of Juneau; City and Borough of Sitka; City and Borough of Yakutat; City of Homer; City of Nome; City of Sand Point; City of Wrangell; Denali Borough; Fed - Department of Homeland Security; Kenai Peninsula Borough; Lake & Peninsula Borough; Maricle, Martin D (DNR); Municipality of Anchorage; Ray Leggett; North Slope Borough; Northwest Arctic Borough; State - Alaska National Guard; Wilson, Barry J (DPS); wpetram@anmc.org

**Subject:** Preliminary Notice - January 6, 2010 Special Emergency Alert System Exercise

**Importance:** High

To Whom it May Concern:

I wanted to provide a heads up concerning a live exercise being conducted in January that may generate some questions from the general public, and may cause an increase in calls to Public Safety Answering Points and other emergency management contacts the day of the test.

Under the direction of the White House, and as part of ongoing national preparedness planning efforts, the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the State of Alaska, and the Alaska Broadcasters' Association will conduct a statewide exercise of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) in Alaska on Wednesday, January 6, 2010, at 10 am local time (2 pm ET). The exercise will test the capabilities of the EAS system.

This test will be similar to the twice yearly "live code tests" we conduct for Tsunami Warnings and Amber Alerts. The major difference between the tests we conduct each year and this one is the particular code being utilized. This exercise will utilize the Emergency Action Notification (EAN) event code. This code is reserved for exclusive use by the President of the United States. Unlike state and local EAS codes, this particular message does not include a 2 minute time limit for the audio portion of the message. As part of the exercise, FEMA plans on providing approximately 2 minutes and 30 seconds of audio to ensure the system is adequately exercised.

As with our previous live code tests we will be providing a website for public safety officials and the general public to provide feedback to us on the reception and quality of the test. The website address is <http://ready.alaska.gov>. Currently there is a brief description of the test on that website. Prior to the exercise we will make the feedback page available for use. Additionally, the Alaska Broadcasters Association has produced and distributed a number of Public Service Announcements for both television and radio to inform the public of the exercise.

As with all of our live code exercises, the "crawl" generated automatically by the EAS system will not indicate this is a test. Where possible we have coordinated with broadcast television and cable systems to place a "slide" up during the actual test to inform the viewing audience that it is indeed a test. The audio portion of the message will clearly indicate this is a test.

As we work with FEMA leading up to the test I will provide further information to all of you.

On behalf of FEMA, the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and the Alaska Broadcasters Association, I would like to thank all of you for your cooperation as we exercise the vital portion of the Nation's alert and warning capability.

I can be reached at [b.fisher@alaska.gov](mailto:b.fisher@alaska.gov) with any questions or concerns you may have.

Respectfully,

*Bryan J. Fisher*

Chief of Operations

Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management