

# Office of the Mayor

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Emergency Alert System (EAS) Nationwide Test

NORTH TONAWANDA — On November 9, 2011 at 2pm Eastern Standard Time (EST), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will conduct the first-ever nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS).

The EAS is a media communications-based alerting system that is designed to transmit emergency alerts and warnings to the public at the national, state and local levels. EAS participants broadcast alerts and warning regarding weather alerts, child abductions and other types of emergencies. EAS alerts are transmitted over radio and television broadcast stations, cable television and other media services. The purpose of the November 9 test is to assess the reliability and effectiveness of the system as a way to alert the public during nationwide emergencies.

The nationwide EAS test may be similar to other EAS tests our residents have seen. Such tests include an audio EAS tone and a message indicating that "This is a test of the Emergency Alerting System." The nationwide EAS test will last a little longer—about three (3) minutes and will be broadcasted over ALL types of public media at the same time. **However, due to limitations in the EAS, the video test message scroll may not be the same or indicate that "This is a test." The FCC and FEMA are taking extra steps to educate the public that this is only a test.**

Visit the FCC Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau's website for more information on Emergency Alert System Nationwide Test: <http://fcc.gov/encyclopedia/emergency-alert-system-nationwide-test>. The FCC information sheet regarding the November 9, 2011 test can be found at: [Emergency Alert System Nationwide Test \(EAS\)](#).

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