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PNSWSH

Public Information Statement 24-20  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
530 PM EDT Fri Mar 15 2024

To:           Subscribers:  
              -NOAA Weather Wire Service  
              -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network  
              -NOAAPort  
              -NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) Listeners  
              Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From:         Douglas C. Young, Chief  
              Digital and Graphical Information Support Branch

Subject: Alaska NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) and Emergency Alert System (EAS) Live Event Code Test for a Tsunami Warning on March 27, 2024 at 10:20 AM AKDT

The National Weather Service (NWS) Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) in Anchorage and Juneau, AK; the National Tsunami Warning Center; the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM); and the Alaska Broadcasters Association plan to conduct a live code Tsunami Warning test on Wednesday, March 27 at approximately 10:20 AM Alaska Daylight Time (AKDT).

This test is designed to ensure the accurate transmission of a Tsunami Warning message through internal NWS Dissemination systems and external systems, with messages intended for Emergency Management and Broadcast partners, residents and visitors in tsunami-prone areas of coastal Alaska. This test is scheduled as part of Alaska's annual Tsunami Preparedness Week and in recognition of the 60th anniversary of the Magnitude 9.2 Great Alaskan Earthquake and Tsunami in 1964.

The test message will originate from the National Tsunami Warning Center (NTWC) utilizing a Valid Time Event Code (VTEC) Product Class Code of /T/ for Test. The warning message will then be disseminated to the WFO Anchorage and Juneau NWR transmitters in the test area using Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) tones. Upon receiving this alert through the Emergency Alert System (EAS), audio and text scrolls from television (TV) and radio broadcast partners will indicate it is a "test." TV broadcasters have been provided with a static graphic, which they may elect to display clearly stating a test is occurring. Local emergency management agencies also have the option to activate their tsunami warning sirens as part of this test, but it will not be required.

The associated World Meteorological Organization (WMO) text messages, as detailed in Table 1, will use a VTEC Product Class Code of /T/ for Test and the word Test will be repeated several times in the body of the message. The test will not be sent to cellphones via the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system, although in an actual Tsunami Warning this system would be used.

Table 1. NWS Text Products to be Disseminated by the National Tsunami Warning Center for the Test

Product Name	WMO Heading	AWIPS ID
Tsunami Warning	WEPA41 PAAQ	TSUWCA
Tsunami Warning	WEAK51 PAAQ	TSUAK1

NWR listeners and broadcasters should note that all NWR transmitters operated by WFO Juneau will not conduct the regular Required Weekly Test (RWT) on March 27, 2024 because it conflicts with the timing of the live event code test. A list of these transmitters is below in Table 2. All NWR transmitters operated by WFO Anchorage will still conduct a RWT at their regular time after the live code test is complete.

Table 2. NWR Transmitters that Will Not Have a Required Weekly Test on March 27, 2024:

Transmitter ID	Location	Frequency
KAD96	Manleyville	162.500
KXI80	Craig	162.475
KZZ86	Althorp Peak	162.425
KZZ87	Mt. Robert Barron	162.450
KZZ88	Cape Fanshaw	162.425
KZZ89	Sukkwan Island	162.425
KZZ91	Zarembo Island	162.450
KZZ92	Duke Island	162.450
KZZ95	Mt. McArthur	162.525
KZZ96	Gravina Island	162.525
WXJ25	Juneau	162.550
WXJ26	Ketchikan	162.550
WXJ80	Sitka	162.550
WXJ83	Wrangell	162.400
WXK69	Yakutat	162.400
WXM97	Haines	162.400
WZ2555	Duffield Peninsula	162.525

This test will be canceled if there is recent significant seismic activity or a real Tsunami event in the area. A rescheduled test will be preceded by another Public Information Statement.

For more information, please contact:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification/>

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