

Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) State and Local Testing

“Opt-in” required to receive WEA tests

The FCC in December, 2019 released new rules on testing WEA. All WEA testing is now *only* conducted through the “WEA test” code. Live WEA tests are no longer allowed.

In order for a smart phone to receive a WEA test it must:

1. Be a WEA test capable phone (newer phone and recent software update installed)
2. The phone subscriber must “opt-in”.

For iPhone the “opt-in” procedure is:

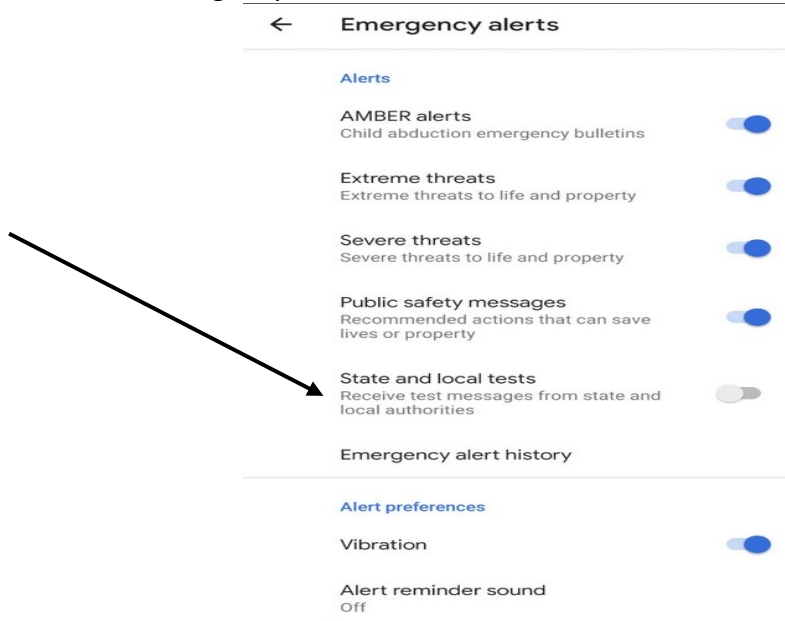
To opt in State/Local WEA Tests:
Open the Phone app and tap Keypad.
To turn it on: Enter *5005*25371# and tap call. You'll then receive a message stating "Test alerts enabled."
To turn it off: Enter *5005*25370# and tap call. You'll then receive a message stating "Test alerts disabled."



The image shows two iPhone screens. The left screen displays the dial pad with the number *5005*25371# entered. The right screen shows a confirmation message that says "Test alerts enabled" with a "Dismiss" button at the bottom.

For Android the “opt-in” is:

Found in a different place depending on what phone you have but the common theme is that the settings will be called "Cell Broadcasts" or "Emergency alerts."



The image shows a screenshot of the "Emergency alerts" settings menu on an Android phone. The menu includes options for AMBER alerts, Extreme threats, Severe threats, Public safety messages, and State and local tests. The "State and local tests" option is currently turned off, and an arrow points to it from the left.

Alert Type	Description	Status
AMBER alerts	Child abduction emergency bulletins	On
Extreme threats	Extreme threats to life and property	On
Severe threats	Severe threats to life and property	On
Public safety messages	Recommended actions that can save lives or property	On
State and local tests	Receive test messages from state and local authorities	Off
Emergency alert history		
Alert preferences		
Vibration		On
Alert reminder sound	Off	