

TIP #26: How to Receive WEA Tests on Android & iOS Phones

Public safety officials may send WEA tests to ensure that their methods and systems will reliably deliver alerts and warnings to the public. A test message should contain TEST, EXERCISE, DRILL or similar wording.

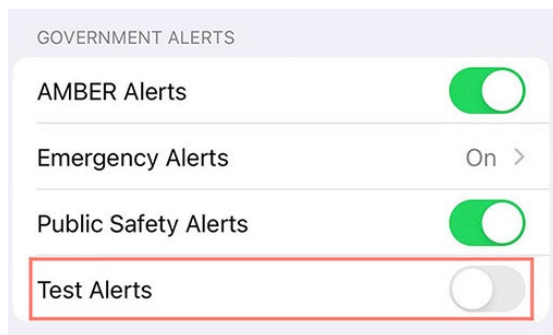
Mobile phones ship from the manufacturer with the test alerts option disabled. The user must enable this option to receive WEA tests. Some phones do not include a test option and cannot receive tests.

There is no need to enable WEA tests in order to receive emergency alerts from state, local, tribal, territorial or federal authorities. Enabling or disabling tests does not affect reception of emergency alerts.

If you need to enable WEA tests, change these settings:

iPhone

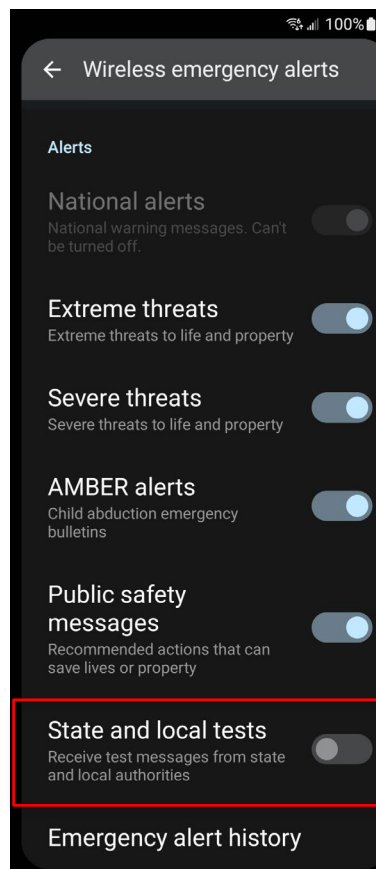
Apple devices running the latest versions of its operating systems (OS) include a Test Alerts toggle switch in Settings > Notifications > Government Alerts.



Apple devices running earlier OS versions do not have this toggle switch. They require entering a sequence of characters to enable or disable tests.

See the Apple support document [About emergency and government alerts on iPhone and Apple Watch](#).

Android



In this Android example, emergency alerts are enabled.

WEA Test appears here as “State/local test alerts” and are disabled, but the user can enable them.

An Android phone may or may not follow the structure shown here. You should be able to find these settings by searching the phone for Emergency Alerts.

Newer and upgraded phones will have this WEA Test capability.



FEMA