



ShakeAlert[™] Because seconds matter.

WEA WAtch Party - Help Test ShakeAlert[®] in Washington

What: Wireless Emergency Alert Demonstration

Who: King, Pierce, and Thurston Counties (see map next page)

When: Thursday February 25th at 11:00 am ([Register Here](#))

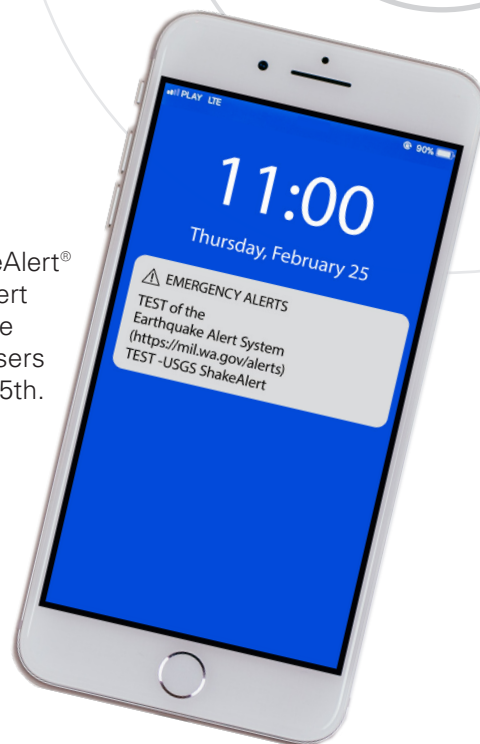
It's a big month for earthquake safety in Washington state and you can be a part of it! In recognition of the 20th anniversary of the 2001 Nisqually Earthquake, the Washington Emergency Management Division (WA EMD) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) will jointly send a Wireless Emergency Alert test message on Thursday, Feb. 25th at 11 a.m across many wireless devices in King, Pierce, and Thurston Counties. This demonstration is a run-up to the launch of the ShakeAlert[®] Earthquake Early Warning (EEW) System in Washington state in May 2021.

This is an opportunity for members of the public in these three counties to participate in the test, learn more about earthquake safety and earthquake science, and, importantly, contribute citizen-science data that will help improve future alert delivery.

What is a Wireless Emergency Alert?

The Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system broadcasts public safety messages (like AMBER Alerts) over the commercial cellular system. Customers with compatible smartphones can receive geographically targeted, text-like messages alerting them to threats to safety in their area. The WEA system is one of multiple methods that will be powered by the ShakeAlert Earthquake Early Warning system in Washington state.

Sample ShakeAlert[®] earthquake alert message to be received by users on February 25th.



What is the ShakeAlert Earthquake Early Warning System?

ShakeAlert detects earthquakes that have already begun. If an earthquake fits the right profile, the USGS issues a ShakeAlert Message and makes it available to distribution partners, like WEA, who deliver alerts to areas that could feel weak or greater shaking. This may *potentially provide people seconds to protect themselves*.

Learn more and get involved! See next page for five ways you can participate.

Participating partners





ShakeAlert™ Because seconds matter.

Learn more and get involved!

Below are five ways you and your friends, family members, colleagues, and neighbors can participate.

1. Opt in to receive the test alert on your phone

By default, most phones have the WEA test message feature turned off. For instructions on how to opt in to receive the WEA test message, please visit mil.wa.gov/alerts.

2. Make it social! Join a WEA Watch Party

If you will be in King, Pierce or Thurston County on Feb 25th, you can sign up in advance to join a virtual WEA Watch Party between 10:30 and 11:15 a.m. on Zoom. At this virtual event, facilitated by ShakeAlert scientists and educators, you will have the opportunity to learn more about ShakeAlert, participate in the WEA test, and contribute feedback and citizen-science data that will help improve future alert delivery.

[Register Here](#)

3. Contribute data!

If you are in King, Pierce, or Thurston County on Feb 25th, you can provide feedback—including reporting whether and how the test alert was delivered to your device—by filling out a public survey. To access the survey, please visit <https://mil.wa.gov/alerts> shortly before the test. The data you provide will help improve future ShakeAlert message delivery.

4. Learn more about the science behind ShakeAlert

People of all ages can use this opportunity to learn more about earthquakes and earthquake preparedness in the Pacific Northwest.

- Watch the 4-minute video [What is ShakeAlert?](#)



Map area for the 11:00 a.m. Thursday February 25 test of the ShakeAlert system includes King, Pierce and Thurston Counties.

- Print and complete the [Rocket Rules Earthquake Activity Book](#) (in 9 languages)
- Learn about what you should do when [Earthquake Early Warning](#) comes to the West Coast, from the WA Emergency Management Division
- Learn about the [three types of earthquakes](#) that can occur in the Pacific Northwest
- Using the [IRIS Earthquake Browser](#), (IEB) explore earthquakes across the globe. Can you use the browser to find the 2001 Nisqually earthquake that shook the Pacific Northwest twenty years ago?
- For even more earthquake science videos and activities, visit www.iris.edu/shakealert

5. Help spread the word

Share this information with your friends, colleagues, and community members, especially those in King, Pierce, and Thurston Counties.

Follow and share

@USGS_ShakeAlert and @waEMD on Twitter, and use #ShakeAlert and/or #WAShakeAlert.