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## How to Turn Off the UK Emergency Alert Test on Your Mobile

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This September, mobile phones across the United Kingdom will go off with a loud, unexpected alarm even if they're on silent. That's because the UK government is planning another nationwide test of its Emergency Alert system, a tool designed to warn the public in serious emergencies, like extreme weather events.

First introduced in 2023, the Emergency Alert system sends urgent messages to all mobile phones connected to 4G or 5G networks. The goal is simple: to keep people informed and safe when lives could be at risk. Past real-life uses of the system include Storm Darragh in December 2024, where over three million people were warned about dangerous 90mph

winds. Sadly, two people lost their lives during that storm, highlighting the importance of quick, wide-reaching alerts.

During the upcoming test, every phone that's eligible will emit a loud, siren-like sound for about ten seconds and vibrate even if it's on silent or do not disturb. A notification will appear on the screen, making it clear that this is just a test and not a real emergency.

While the system is meant to protect the public, not everyone will want to receive these alerts. Some people, particularly victims of domestic abuse who may be hiding a phone for their safety, have raised concerns about the noise drawing attention. Because of this, the government has included advice on how to turn off the alerts if needed. To opt-out, users can go into their phone settings and disable Emergency Alerts manually.

Government officials are urging people to keep the alerts on if it's safe for them to do so. Pat McFadden, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, said the alerts could help save lives. He added that this test is part of a larger plan to improve national readiness, which includes investments in flood defences and biosecurity.

A public information campaign will run ahead of the test to make sure everyone, including vulnerable individuals, knows what to expect. In emergencies, every second counts and this test is designed to ensure the system will work when it truly matters.

If you're unsure about how to turn off alerts or want to learn more, now's the time to check your phone settings and stay informed.

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