

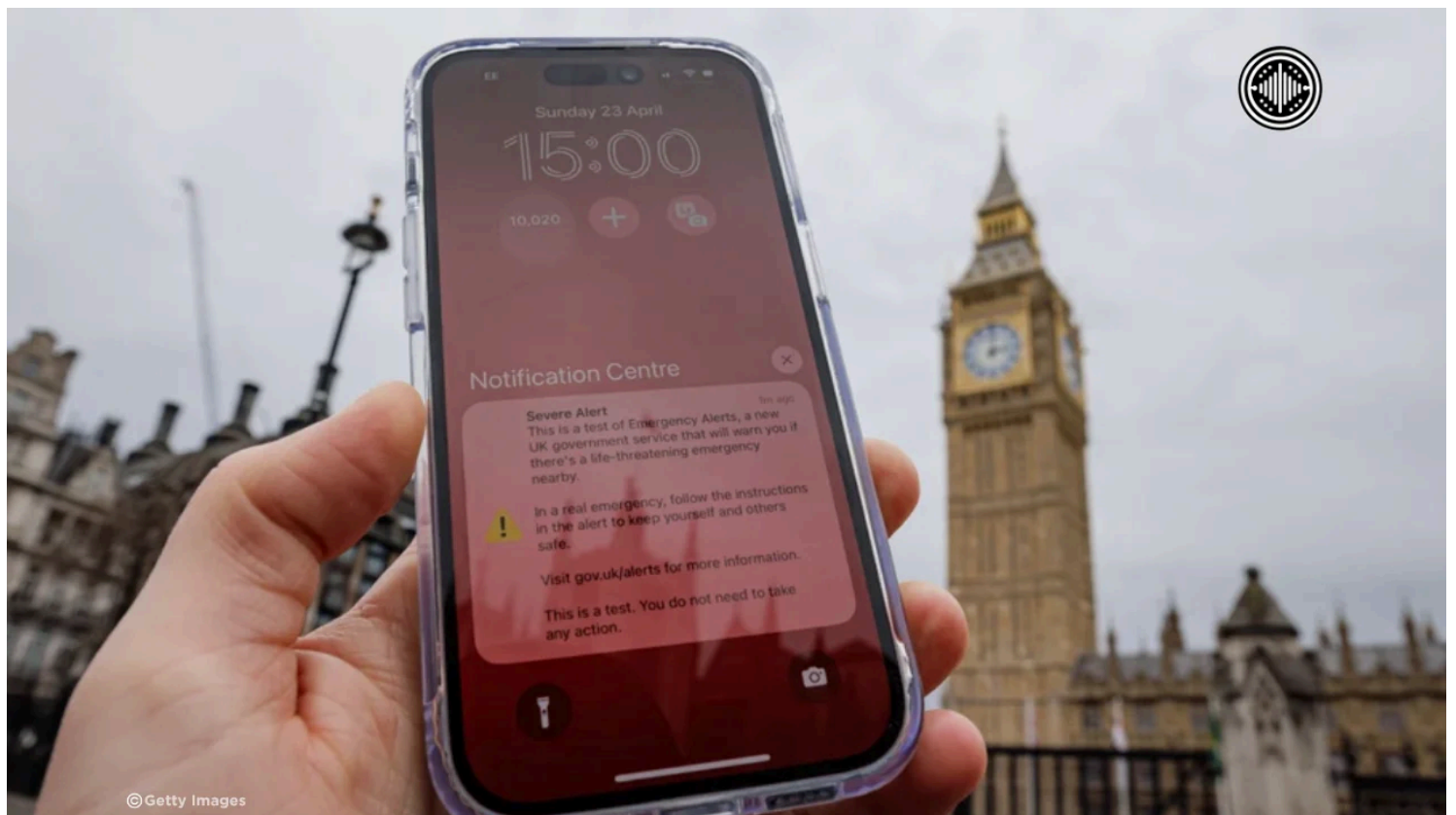
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## Alert System Trial to Reach 87 Million Devices

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**LONDON** – A nationwide test of the UK's emergency alert system is scheduled for Saturday, 7 September at 3 pm, with the Government confirming that around 87 million mobile devices are expected to receive the alert.

The alert will be sent to 4G and 5G-enabled smartphones and tablets, sounding a loud siren for approximately 10 seconds, accompanied by vibrations and a message explaining that it

is a test. Although users will not be required to take action, the system is designed to prepare the public for real emergencies such as severe weather or national threats.

Devices using 2G, 3G, or Wi-Fi only will not receive the alert, nor will phones that are switched off at the time of the test.

Authorities have issued specific advice for certain groups. Victims of domestic abuse who may have hidden phones can opt out of alerts in the device settings to maintain discretion. Instructions for disabling alerts vary by device but generally fall under 'Emergency Alerts' settings, where users can turn off 'Severe' and 'Extreme' notifications.

Campaigners have raised concerns about the potential risks for vulnerable individuals, prompting the Government to collaborate with charities and disability organisations to ensure the test is accessible and safe.

People who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, or partially sighted will still receive the alert, provided accessibility notifications are enabled on their device. The Government advises users to ensure their phones are appropriately configured in advance of the test.

Motorists are reminded not to interact with the alert while driving. The official guidance states: "It is illegal to use a hand-held device while driving. Find somewhere safe and legal to stop before reading the message."

The Government has stressed the importance of running the test to ensure the system functions correctly in a real emergency. Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster Pat McFadden said: "Just like the fire alarm in your house, it's important we test this system so that we know it will work if we need it. The alerts have the potential to save lives."

Since its national rollout in 2023, the emergency alert system has been activated five times, including during Storm Éowyn, when warnings were issued to residents in red alert zones.