Pacific County Investigates Faulty AHAB Siren Tests Monday

Local News

Posted by: David Haviland

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South Bend, Washington – The Pacific County Emergency Management Agency’s (PCEMA) All Hazard Alert Broadcast (AHAB) siren system was activated Monday as part of the regular monthly testing schedule. There were issues with the siren activations and preliminary reports are indicating that results at each siren site may differ.

PCEMA is working closely with the Washington Emergency Management Division to determine the cause of the malfunction.

The standard procedure for the monthly test is for the sirens to sound the Westminster Chimes for 10 seconds followed by a 15 second verbal message stating “The following is a test of the siren warning system. It is only a test. This is a test of the siren warning system. If this had been a real emergency you should tune your radio to your local radio station or listen to this system for further instructions. This was only a test.”

South Bend, Washington – The All Hazard Alert Broadcast (AHAB) siren system spotter reports have been received by the Pacific County Emergency Management Agency (PCEMA) and forwarded to the Washington Emergency Management Division (WAEMD). The results for today’s test are:

Notes: The sequence heard Monday was 1) chimes with light, 2) wailing siren, 3) high-low pitch siren, 4) chimes, and 5) voice. The voice announcement was short, “tsunami, volcano, hazardous material”. There was no indication this event was a test. At some sites it was reported that the voice was overdriven and distorted.

LOCATION

CHIMES

VOICE

LIGHT

Ilwaco - 807 Whealdon

NO

NO

NO

Cape Disappointment - Space 90

YES

YES

YES

Surfside - 33104 J Place

YES

YES

YES

Ocean Park - 21611 V Ln

YES

YES

YES

Ocean Park - 2017 304th Ln

YES

YES

NO

Ocean Park - 27212 U Street

YES

YES

YES

Ocean Park - 2408 245th Lane

YES

YES

YES

Bay Center - 408 Bay Center Road

YES

YES

NA

Seaview - 3801 N Place

YES

YES

YES

Long Beach - 9211 X Street

YES

YES

YES

Long Beach - 319 2nd Street

YES

YES

YES

North Cove - 2829 SR 105 (PCFD5)

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North Cove - Seabreeze Rd/Warrenton Cannery Rd

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PCEMA is still awaiting spotter reports from the North Cove area.
Volunteers for the Pacific County Sheriff’s Office Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) serve as AHAB siren spotters every month. Without their service PCEMA would be unable to submit timely and accurate monthly test results to WAEMD.
The cause for the AHAB sirens sounding multiple tones and alerts during today’s test is still under investigation. PCEMA will continue to work with WAEMD to determine the cause of the malfunction.
In actual events, the AHAB sirens will sound the constant tone for three continuous minutes, and may be followed by a verbal message. Both the Westminster chimes and the actual warning tone can be heard by visiting the PCEMA website at www.co.pacific.wa.us/pcema
Residents with questions or concerns may contact the PCEMA office at (360) 875-9340 or (360) 642-9340.