



BENTON COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES

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Media Advisory

Monthly Test of CSEPP Sirens & Tone Alert Radios

Richland, WASH: – The monthly test of tone alert radios and warning sirens in southern Benton County will take place Tuesday, February 23, at noon. The test is conducted by Benton County Emergency Management and is part of the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) for the Umatilla Chemical Depot located near Hermiston, Oregon.

The first part of the two-part test involves the activation of the 20 CSEPP sirens located in southern Benton County near the Columbia River. When activated for the test, the sirens transmit a verbal message in English and Spanish stating that it is only a test followed by the sounding of the Westminster chimes. If there were an actual emergency, the sirens would blare a three-minute tone followed by instructions in both English and Spanish.

Immediately following the activation of the sirens, the tone alert radios are tested. The radios will sound a tone for eight seconds, followed by a verbal message in English and Spanish stating that it is only a test. If there were an actual emergency, the tone alert radios would blare a tone that increases in volume for about 25 seconds. The tone would be followed by instructions and information about the emergency in both English and Spanish.

Benton County Emergency Management conducts the tests on the last Tuesday of each month. Additional information on CSEPP can be obtained by calling Benton County Emergency Management at (509) 628-2600 or toll free at (800) 841-7953. CSEPP information is also available on the Internet at www.bces.wa.gov or www.csepp.net.

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