

Introducing AusAlert™

In October 2026, the Australian Government is launching AusAlert – a new national warning system that uses the latest technology to send emergency messages to compatible mobile devices.



What is AusAlert?

AusAlert is a fast and reliable way to help communities be informed and better prepared during local and national emergencies.

What is AusAlert for?

AusAlert gives the Australian Government and state and territory emergency services organisations the ability to send national or local alerts about disasters. These could be natural hazards such as bushfires, floods, cyclones and tsunamis, or events like public health emergencies, security threats or biosecurity incidents. It's just one of the many ways we're helping to keep Australians safer in times of disaster.

How does AusAlert work?

AusAlert uses the latest technology to send near-instant emergency messages to compatible mobile devices during disasters.

What are the different types of AusAlert?

There are 2 main types of AusAlert:

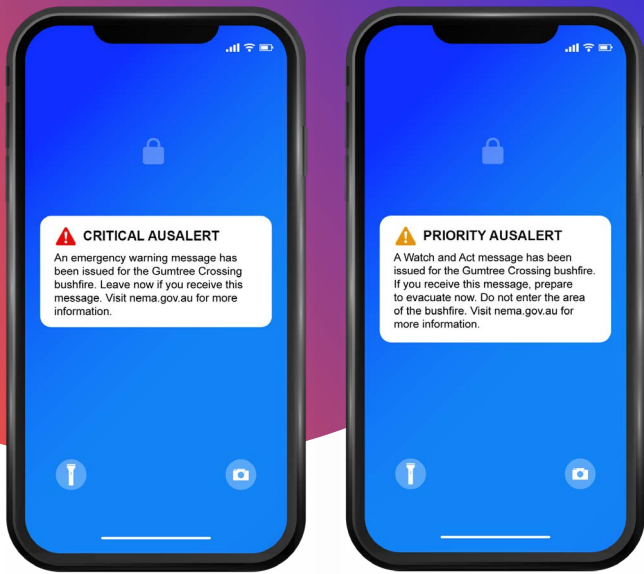
- **Critical Alerts** are used for the most serious emergencies. They can't be opted out of.
- **Priority Alerts** are used for emergencies where there is a heightened level of threat because conditions are changing. They can be opted out of.

What will be included in an AusAlert?

An AusAlert will be written in English and will let you know the type of emergency, where it's located, how serious it is and how to respond. It will also tell you the name of the emergency organisation that has sent the AusAlert and where to find more information about the emergency.

What does an AusAlert look like?

Depending on your device type and operating system, an AusAlert message will look something like this:



The AusAlert messages shown on screen are examples only and not real AusAlerts.

What does an AusAlert sound like?

A **Critical Alert** will cause your mobile device to vibrate and will be delivered with a loud siren-like warning sound that lasts about 10 seconds. It will make this noise even if you've set your device to 'silent' or 'do not disturb' mode.

A **Priority Alert** may vibrate and include a siren-like warning sound, but exactly how it is delivered will depend on your settings, device type and operating system.

Is an AusAlert a text message?

No, an AusAlert isn't an SMS or text message – it's an 'alert'. It will appear as a notification on your mobile device's screen and will show up during phone calls, app use, and on lock screens. You'll need to close the notification once you've seen the message, otherwise it will remain on your screen.

What do I do if I receive an AusAlert?

You should read and understand the AusAlert and follow the instructions to keep yourself and others safe.

Should I wait until I receive an AusAlert to act in an emergency?

It's important you don't wait to receive an AusAlert before acting in a disaster. You must still prepare yourself, have an action plan and be proactive. AusAlert is just one way to stay safe. Turn on local or national TV or radio, check emergency services apps, or search online for more information about the emergency.

Will my mobile be able to receive an AusAlert?

Mobile devices such as compatible mobile phones and some tablets and smart watches will be able to receive an AusAlert message. AusAlerts are expected to work on iPhones 11 and up running iOS 26.4 or later and Android phones and tablets running Android 12 or later. Always install the latest software updates on your device when asked so you're ready to receive AusAlerts.

What if I don't want to receive an AusAlert?

AusAlerts contain important information and should be turned on to help keep you safe. You can't opt out of a Critical Alert. The only way to not receive a Critical Alert is to turn your mobile device off or switch it to aeroplane mode. You can opt out of an AusAlert Priority Alert. For more information, visit ausalert.gov.au

What if I receive an AusAlert while driving?

If you receive an AusAlert while driving or riding, stay calm and don't touch your phone. Mobile phone laws remain active – don't read or respond to the alert while moving. The AusAlert may make a siren-like sound for about 10 seconds. Only check the message when it is safe and legal to do so.

For more information, visit ausalert.gov.au