

What is AusAlert?



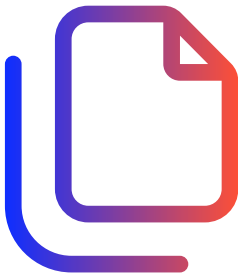
How to use this document

This is an **Easy Read document**.

Easy Read uses:

- simple words
- short sentences
- pictures to explain ideas.

You may want someone to read this document with you.



Other Easy Read documents

There are 4 Easy Read documents that explain AusAlert.

This is the first document. It explains what AusAlert is.

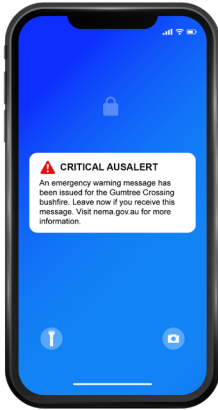
The other Easy Read documents about AusAlert are:

- Message types and what to do
- Community testing
- National testing

Find them on the AusAlert website.

<https://www.ausalert.gov.au/community-resources>

What is AusAlert?



AusAlert sends alerts to mobile devices during emergencies and disasters.

An alert is a warning message.



Emergencies can be:

- bushfires
- floods
- cyclones
- public safety threats
- pandemics
- other serious events.



The alert tells you:

- what is happening
- what you should do.



Alerts help keep people safe.

Who can get AusAlert alerts?



AusAlert is for everyone in Australia.

You may get an alert if you have a:

- mobile phone
- tablet
- smart watch.

Most smart phones, tablets and watches can get alerts.

Some people may need extra support



Some people may need more help to understand alerts.

Extra information is available for:

- people with disability
- older Australians
- young people
- First Nations peoples
- people from other countries

Find this extra information in the community resources section of the AusAlert website.

<https://www.ausalert.gov.au/community-resources>

How AusAlert works

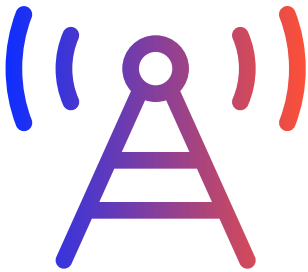


AusAlert sends alerts to devices in the emergency area.

Only people in that area will get the alert.

People outside the area will not get the alert.

What happens when an alert is sent?



If your device is in the emergency area:

- you will get the alert very quickly.

If your device is outside the area:

- you will not get the alert.

If you enter the area later:

- you may still get the alert if it is active.





Alerts are loud

They make a **loud siren sound**.

Your device will also vibrate.

The most serious alerts are called **Critical Alerts**.



The sound will play even if your device is:

- on 'silent'
- on 'do not disturb'.



You cannot turn off Critical Alerts.

These alerts are sent during very dangerous emergencies.

Who can send AusAlerts?



AusAlerts can only be sent by official emergency services.

These include:

- police
- fire and emergency services
- the Australian Government.

Why AusAlert is helpful



Alerts go to the right place

AusAlerts only go to devices in the emergency area.

The alert area can be small or large.

For example:

- a building
- a town
- a state
- all of Australia.

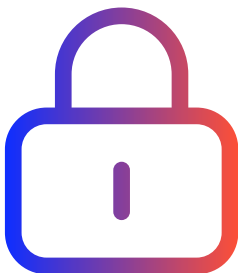


Alerts work when networks are busy

The alert is not an SMS message.

It can arrive even when mobile networks are busy.

Your device does not need a SIM card to receive it.



Your privacy is protected

AusAlert does not collect or store:

- your phone number
- your location.

Only approved government and emergency services can send alerts.

Testing AusAlert



AusAlert will start in **October 2026**.

It will be tested before it starts.



Community tests

Some communities will receive a test alert in:

June 2026



National test

A test alert will be sent to all Australians on:

Monday 27 July 2026

Why AusAlert was created



In 2020, the Australian Government reviewed how to respond to disasters.

The review found that emergency warnings help people:

- know about disasters
- respond quickly
- stay safe.