



AusAlert™ and the national test

Monday 27 July 2026

A guide for older Australians

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



AusAlert is a fast and reliable way to help communities be informed and better prepared during local and national emergencies such as bushfires, severe weather and public health emergencies. It's just one of the many ways we're helping to keep Australians safer in times of disaster.

AusAlert will be ready to use in October 2026, but before it launches, the system needs to be tested across Australia. **This is called the AusAlert national test.**



Help with AusAlert

If you have questions about the AusAlert national test or updating your device, ask a carer, family member or someone you trust for help.

When is the AusAlert national test?

On **Monday 27 July 2026**, an AusAlert test message will be sent to all compatible mobile devices in Australia, at around:

- **2:00 pm AEST** – Queensland, New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory, Victoria, Tasmania
- **1:30 pm ACST** – Northern Territory, South Australia, Broken Hill (NSW)
- **12:00 pm AWST** – Western Australia.

What will the AusAlert national test sound like?

If devices are turned on, the AusAlert national test will:

- **make them vibrate**
- **play a loud siren-like sound for 10 seconds**

This may happen even if a device is on silent or do not disturb.

What will the AusAlert national test look like?

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



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. Once you've seen the message, you'll need to close it, otherwise it will stay on your screen.

Can I trust AusAlert?

AusAlert is run by the Australian Government and is safe and secure.

AusAlert:

- **will never ask for personal or financial details**
- **does not require you to sign up or download an app**
- **does not track your location.**

If you receive anything that seems suspicious, report it to ScamWatch at [scamwatch.gov.au](https://www.scamwatch.gov.au)

Will I be able to receive the AusAlert national test?

Some older mobile phones, like those made before 2019, may not receive AusAlerts. Apple iPads do not receive AusAlerts. If you have a compatible phone with a prepaid SIM card, you may still get an AusAlert, even if you have no data or credit left.

Always install the latest software updates on your device when asked so you're ready to receive AusAlerts.

If you're not sure if your mobile device will receive an AusAlert, visit [ausalert.gov.au](https://www.ausalert.gov.au) or ask someone you trust for help.

What do I do if I receive the AusAlert national test?

As this is just a test, you don't need to do anything. But in an actual disaster an AusAlert 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. You should always read and understand the AusAlert and follow the instructions to keep yourself and others safe.

What if I don't receive the AusAlert national test?

This is fine – you don't need to do anything. If you have information you'd like to pass to the AusAlert team, fill in the 'I didn't get a test alert' form on the AusAlert website at [ausalert.gov.au/feedback](https://www.ausalert.gov.au/feedback)

Will my assistive technology receive the national test?

AusAlert may be received through:

- text-to-speech
- hearing aids
- cochlear implants
- screen readers
- refreshable braille devices
- screen magnification tools
- bed shakers.

For more information about AusAlert and accessibility, visit [ausalert.gov.au/community-resources/disabilities-extra-support](https://www.ausalert.gov.au/community-resources/disabilities-extra-support)

What if I don't want to receive the AusAlert national test?

AusAlerts contain important information and should be turned on to help keep you safe. The AusAlert national test is a Critical Alert, which you can't opt out of. If receiving it could disrupt you or cause you to feel unsafe, **turn off your mobile devices or switch them to aeroplane mode before the test time in your location and leave them off for at least one hour.**



How do I turn my device off?

Apple (iOS devices such as iPhones and Apple Watches)

If your device uses Face ID:

- press and hold the right-hand side button and either volume button at the same time until 'sliders' appear
- drag the 'slide to power off' slider from left to right.

If your device has a Home button:

- press and hold the right-hand side button until the 'slider' appears
- drag the 'slide to power off' slider from left to right.

To turn either device back on, press and hold the right-hand side button until the Apple logo appears.

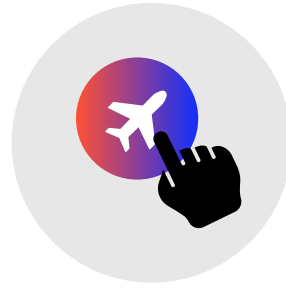
*Please note: AusAlerts are **not** received by Apple iPads.*

Android (devices such as phones, and some tablets and smart watches)

For most Android devices:

- press and hold the power button on either the left or right side of your device until the power menu appears
- press the 'Power Off' button.

To turn your device back on, press and hold the power button until the logo of your device manufacturer appears.



How do I switch my device to aeroplane mode?

Apple (iOS devices such as iPhones and Apple Watches)

To turn aeroplane mode on:

- go to 'Settings'
- turn the 'Aeroplane Mode' toggle on
- an aeroplane icon should appear at the top of the screen.

To turn aeroplane mode back off:

- go to 'Settings'
- turn the 'Aeroplane Mode' toggle off
- the aeroplane icon at the top of the screen should disappear.

*Please note: AusAlerts are **not** received by Apple iPads.*

Android (devices such as phones, and some tablets and smart watches)

To turn aeroplane mode on (most Androids):

- go to 'Settings'
- tap on 'Network & internet'
- turn the 'Aeroplane Mode' toggle on
- an aeroplane icon should appear at the top of the screen.

To turn aeroplane mode back off (most Androids):

- go to 'Settings'
- tap on 'Network & internet'
- turn the 'Aeroplane Mode' toggle off
- the aeroplane icon at the top of the screen should disappear.