

Introducing AusAlert™

AusAlert is a new way to receive messages during disasters and emergencies. It will start from October 2026. AusAlerts are sent to compatible mobile devices and they can help you, your family and your community make decisions quickly in an emergency.



AusAlert emergency warnings

When there is an emergency, AusAlert will quickly send an alert to compatible devices like many mobile phones, tablets and smart watches.

This could be before or during natural hazards, like:

- bushfires
- floods
- cyclones
- tsunamis.

Emergencies can also include:

- health emergencies
- security incidents
- biosecurity incidents.

Types of AusAlerts

There are 2 types of AusAlerts:

Critical Alerts are for the most serious emergencies where people may need information quickly. These alerts stay turned on so urgent warnings can be received.

Your device will vibrate and play a loud siren-like sound lasting about 10 seconds.

It will make this noise even if your device is set to 'silent' or 'do not disturb'.

Priority Alerts are for emergencies where conditions are changing and people may need new information. These alerts can be turned off in your device settings.

Your device may vibrate and play a warning sound. Priority Alerts may appear differently, depending on your phone, settings and software.

What an AusAlert looks like

Depending on your device type and operating system, here is an example of what an AusAlert might look like:



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

An AusAlert is an 'alert' rather than an SMS or text message. The alert is in English and will let you know:

- the type of emergency
- where it is located
- how serious it is
- what to do
- where to get more information.

An AusAlert will usually come from the emergency services, but it could also come from the Australian Government.

The alert will show up during phone calls, while using apps, and on your lock screen. It stays until you close it.

Compatible devices that may receive AusAlerts

Many newer phones may receive AusAlerts, including:

- iPhone 11 and up running iOS 26.4 or later
- Android 12 or later.

Some smart watches and tablets may also receive AusAlerts.

Getting ready for AusAlert

Critical Alerts stay turned on so urgent emergency information can reach people quickly, when it is needed most.

You can choose to turn off Priority Alerts. Learn more at ausalert.gov.au

Getting an AusAlert while driving

If you are driving, keep your focus on the road. Check the message only when you have stopped your vehicle and it is safe and legal to do so.

Keeping each other informed

AusAlerts are just one way to get emergency information. Many people also rely on family, friends, Elders, neighbours, local radio and community networks to stay informed.

Looking out for each other is an important part of staying safe.