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Media Release

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National Test of the Emergency Alert System

Scheduled for November 9, 2011

Joliet, IL – The City of Joliet will be participating in the first-ever nationwide test of broadcast alerting system on Wednesday, November 9, 2011 at 1PM CST.

Radio and television stations across the nation will participate in the Emergency Alert System test. The three-minute test will be conducted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

"The Emergency Alert System is an important tool for providing critical information to the public during emergencies," said Jonathon Monken, director of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA). "This nationwide test is a very ambitious and necessary step to ensure the viability of the system."

Monken said the test will be similar to those people hear monthly on their local radio and TV stations. The main difference is that on Wednesday, November 9, 2011, all TV and radio stations will be conducting the test at the same time.

EAS is a national public alert and warning system that enables the President of the United States to address the American public during extreme emergencies. Alerting authorities can leverage the state and local EAS to send alerts and warning to radio and television stations, cable television, satellite radio and television services and wireline providers.

"Broadcasters are proud of the important role we play as 'first informers' in times of emergency," said Dennis Lyle, president and CEO of the Illinois Broadcasters Association. "In the 60-year history of the Emergency Alert System and its predecessors, the system has never been tested on a *nationwide* basis. While we hope it will never be used for a Presidential alert, it's important to test the system end-to-end in order to seek continuous improvement of this life-saving alerting system."

The City of Joliet is the fourth largest city in the state of Illinois, located just 45 miles southwest of Chicago's Loop. Home to over 147,000 residents, in addition to thriving businesses and attractions, the City of Joliet is easily accessible by rail, auto and bus transit. A perfect place to live, work and play, Joliet is constantly striving to promote growth and diversity. For more information on Joliet visit www.visitjoliet.org or call 815.724.4000.

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