

City of Helena

Helena Police Department
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City of Helena

February 19, 2019

Michael J. Wilhelm
Chief, Policy and Licensing Division
Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
445 12th Street SW Washington, DC 20554

Re: Lewis and Clark County application for FCC Rule Waiver.


Dear Mr. Wilhelm,

The City of Helena and Lewis and Clark County would like to request a FCC Rule Waiver for an exemption from 47 CFR Part 10 to conduct a live Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) test. The special WEA test is planned for 11:00 AM Wednesday April 10, 2019 with an alternate date of Wednesday April 17, 2019. If approved, the WEA Test will be initiated through RAVE Alert to issue the test message between the hours of 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM. The test message will be sent through the WEA portion of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) and will be broadcast to all cellular telephones within the geographic boundaries of Lewis and Clark County, Montana. The test message will read, "*This is test of the Wireless Emergency Alert System for Lewis and Clark County. It's only a test.*"

Our local public information and warning system, (including emergency alert notifications), is managed by the City of Helena and updates all residents within the City of Helena and Lewis and Clark County during emergencies that impact life, safety and property. The purpose of this test is to ensure that the WEA system will work during such emergencies. It's important to us that the public be familiar with WEA, and that local officials are proficient in the use of sending WEA messages before the initiation of a real-world crisis. We believe it's important to test the system before spring flooding and summer wildland fires take a prevailing role in our community.

Leading up to April's test there will be a media campaign to ensure the public understands the purpose of the Wireless Emergency Alert. In partnership with local public information officer(s), there will be an awareness drive so the general public understands the April 10th WEA alert is just a test. The plan will be shared with public safety officials, city and county government, public school system, local media outlets and neighboring jurisdictions. It's our intent to develop a plan to capture the effectiveness of the WEA test via an on-line survey. If you have questions or need further information, please contact me at 406-447-8233 or pcallahan@helenamt.gov.

Sincerely,



Peter Callahan
Manager

City of Helena / Lewis and Clark County 911 Center

Cc: National Weather Service Great Falls, Montana Disaster and Emergency Services, Lewis and Clark County Disaster and Emergency Services, Lewis and Clark County Sheriff's Office, Lewis and Clark County Communication and Community Outreach Coordinator, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Helena Police Department, Broadwater County Sheriff's Office, Helena City Manager, Helena Public Schools, East Helena Police Department, East Helena Public Schools, Lewis and Clark County Chief Administrative Officer, Lewis and Clark County Rural Fire Council, Helena Fire Department, St. Peters Health and Montana Department of Justice.