



VAIL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER 970-479-2200x0 FAX: 970-479-3434
75 S. Frontage Rd. W. Vail, CO 816575

May 1, 2018

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

Re: Town of Vail Wireless Emergency Alert Test—PS Docket No. 15-91.

Dear Chief Wilhelm:

This letter is to respectfully request a limited waiver of the Commission's Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) rules to permit Participating Commercial Mobile Service (CMS) Providers to participate in a WEA test conducted by the Vail Public Safety Communications Center (VPSCC). The VPSCC is the primary and sole Public Safety Answering Point for Eagle County, and is the sole Originating Authority for IPAWS in the County as well.

As proposed, and if approved, the test would be conducted on Wednesday, May 2 at 1230 PM Mountain Time, and would be targeted to the Town of Vail city limits. The text of the test will read as follows: **EC EMO: TEST emergency message. Go to ec-e.org to provide feedback. No other action needed.**

The purpose of conducting the test at this time is to ensure that emergency management officials in Eagle County have a clear understanding of how alerts would perform in our mountainous area. Eagle County hosts a large number of tourists year-round. WEA is an excellent tool to reach visitors to the county, who most likely wouldn't have subscribed to our county's emergency alert system, and might be the only one that would be effective, especially in a large crowd at a special event (Vail hosts upwards of 20 special events in the summer months alone).

Additionally, Colorado is facing drought conditions this summer, and the fire outlook is calling for a higher-than-average chance for large wildfires in our area. In the event of a wildfire, evacuations in and around Vail (and Eagle County) would be necessary, and WEA would be a vital tool in getting the word out to as many citizens and guests as possible in a timely manner. Because of this likelihood, it is vital that we test the system now, rather than waiting until May 2019 for the end-to-end WEA testing. Additionally, we want our citizens to be familiar with the format of the WEA messaging, and to become familiar with our County PIO blog. In the event of emergencies, our WEA, EAS, and other emergency messaging will direct citizens to that blog, at www.ecemergency.org, for more information. The short URL ec-e.org will be used in WEA



VAIL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER 970-479-2200x0 FAX: 970-479-3434
75 S. Frontage Rd. W. Vail, CO 816575

messaging to redirect citizens to the blog. For these reasons, we feel it is necessary to conduct a WEA test sooner rather than later.

In advance of this test, we have conducted considerable public outreach via the Town of Vail website (www.vailgov.com), the Vail Police Department Facebook page, the Vail Police Department Twitter account, and the social media outlets of many of our user agencies throughout Eagle County. We have also run news ads in our local newspaper, the Vail Daily, and conducted television interviews with local and regional outlets. We have informed our neighboring PSAPs of the test as well, and they are prepared with information should their citizens have questions about the test. We have also reached out to Colorado Department of Transportation, which will display information about the test on their overhead variable message signs over I-70, the primary and major route through Eagle County.

We have developed a short, 7-question survey for citizens to fill out following the test, in order to capture data about location reach, cell carrier, handset operating system, and awareness in general about the test. We are happy to share the results of this survey with FEMA and the FCC.

We appreciate the opportunity to partner with the FCC and FEMA on this opportunity to test the WEA functionality in a mountainous environment. Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,
Jennifer Kirkland
911 Operations Administrator
Vail Public Safety Communications Center
75 S. Frontage Rd. W.
Vail, CO 81657
970.477.3413
jkirkland@vailgov.com

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer Kirkland', is positioned to the right of the typed name and title.