

## **News Release**

## SCRD to Test Regional Emergency Alert System

Sechelt, BC—February 22, 2022—The Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) will be testing the new emergency alert system for the Region on March 7 at 10:00 a.m. PT.

If you are signed up for alerts with the SCRD's emergency alert system (Voyent Alert!), you will receive a TEST alert. Users who have subscribed to have alerts sent to their cellphones may hear a loud alert sound like THIS.

During the test, subscribers will receive on their mobile, voice call or email the following message:

"This is a TEST of the Sunshine Coast Regional District Emergency Alert System. This is ONLY a TEST. If this had been an actual emergency or threat, you would now see or hear instructions with information to help keep you safe. For further information go to scrd.ca/alert-system. This is ONLY a TEST, no action is required."

Voyent Alert! allows residents, businesses and visitors to receive messages through an app, text message, voice call or email for critical and emergency events such as earthquakes, fires and flooding events.

Since being launched in December 2021, 1,600 Sunshine Coast residents have signed up to receive emergency alerts via the Voyent Alert app.

A user can subscribe to receive alerts from the SCRD for multiple locations including home, school and work. Information included in the alert sent to users can include maps, images, messages and web links to better assist the community prepare and respond to emergency situations.

"Regular testing of this system will allow us to ensure the system is working as expected and gives further preparedness for emergency situations", says Matt Treit, Manager of Protective Services. "We strongly encourage the community to include signing up for the alert system in your personal emergency plan."

The SCRD will be providing further communication on the alert test via local media, the SCRD website and social media.

Tests will be conducted at least once per year. Dates and times will be advertised.

Learn more about the alert system and sign up at www.scrd.ca/alert-system.

**Media Enquiries:** Jordan Pratt Emergency Management Coordinator Sunshine Coast Regional District Tel.: 604-885-6800 Email: jordan.pratt@scrd.ca