

Public warning tests in Estonia in 2026

The Estonian Rescue Services Agency carries out three public warning system EE-ALARM tests in 2026 on the following dates:

- March 18
- June 10
- October 14

On these dates, all public warning channels will be activated, including sirens (see siren locations below).

- **Around midday, a text message** (SMS) will be sent to mobile phones with a reminder about the upcoming test.
- **Between 15:00 and 15:10:**
 - The **sirens will sound**,
 - App notifications will be sent via the **Eesti äpp** and **“Ole valmis!”** mobile applications,
 - **A ticker text** about the public warning test will appear on **ERR channels** (on TV channels ETV and ETV+, on the ERR.ee website, and the “ERR Uudised” app).

Why are these tests needed?

In a real emergency, the immediate public warning system must function flawlessly. It is important to verify the reliability of the system, ensure that recent improvements work as intended, and identify potential weaknesses.

The Rescue Services will therefore test the different public warning channels — both together and separately — more frequently in the future.

Additional information:

- Before the test, speak with your family members, especially children and the elderly, to reassure them that there is no real danger and that it is only a test.
- To receive public warnings via mobile applications, download the Eesti äpp or the “Ole valmis!” mobile app and allow notifications.
- The sender of both app notifications and SMS messages is always EE-ALARM.
- You can find more detailed information about the EE-ALARM public warning system on the website www.olevalmis.ee, where you can also read instructions for crisis situations and listen to the sound of the siren.

- Help improve the public warning system: after the test, provide your feedback at www.kriis.ee. This helps the Estonian Rescue Services Agency assess how well the system works and identify any shortcomings.

What should you do in a real emergency if you hear the sirens?

If you hear sirens or receive an EE-ALARM notification to seek shelter, go immediately to the nearest indoor area — a room on a lower floor with solid walls and away from windows.

During the tests, take a moment to think about where you would shelter in a real emergency:

- Quick reaction is crucial in an emergency situation.
- The best place to shelter is right where you are.
- In case of an explosion risk, move to a lower floor, into a room with reinforced walls and no windows, preferably a basement. Always stay away from windows or glass walls.
- If you are outdoors and there is no indoor shelter nearby, the best protection at that moment is to lie down in a ditch and cover your head with your hands. Even lying down on the street is safer than staying upright.
- The most dangerous option is to remain standing and visible.

Read more about sheltering and how to prepare for it at:
<https://www.olevalmis.ee/en/seeking-shelter>

Siren audibility map of Estonia:

