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Subject: Ferris to Test Emergency Broadcast System
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Included below is a press release regarding an upcoming test of Ferris State University's Emergency Broadcast System. Further information is available by contacting Leah Nixon, assistant director of News Services.

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Ferris to Conduct Test of Emergency Outdoor Broadcast System

BIG RAPIDS – Ferris State University will be conducting a test of its Emergency Outdoor Broadcast System at 12:15 p.m. Wednesday, June 10, during the university's annual Summer University Picnic.

Tricia Walding-Smith, assistant director of Emergency Management at Ferris, said the test will include an audible announcement preceded by an 8-second warning siren. The announcement will state: "This is a test of the Ferris Emergency Outdoor Broadcast System. This is only a test." A tone of "Westminster Chimes" will begin the "all clear" message followed by a voice announcement stating: "The current emergency has been canceled." Each message will be repeated three times.

The purpose of the test is to improve awareness of the system, Walding-Smith said.

The outdoor broadcast system was installed last fall and includes seven, 40-foot metal poles mounted with speakers placed throughout Ferris' campus to provide maximum coverage, she said. The system gives university officials the ability to broadcast emergency messages across campus.

"The Emergency Outdoor Broadcast System provides the University another layer to its emergency planning and response during a crisis situation," said Chief Martin J. Bledsoe, director of Public Safety.

Other procedures already in place include City Watch, which builds on existing telephone rollout capabilities to provide text and/or voice messages; "Blue Light" Phones, installed at residence halls along with electronic card readers, and placed at a variety of other campus locations; and a fifth Electronic Message Board was mounted on Wheeler pavilion.

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