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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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County to Issue Emergency Communications Test

Public Alert & Warning Test Set for Wednesday 3/22/2023 at 1:30pm MDT

Last May, several local community partners (broadcasters, school districts, public safety entities, etc.) came together to discuss an annual emergency test event as a replacement for the recently discontinued state-wide tornado drill.

A consensus opinion called for the Pennington County Emergency Management Office to conduct a Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) compliant test message and disseminate it through all available communication channels, including the FEMA Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) at a specific date & time.

For 2023, the date and time chosen for the new county wide test is **Wednesday, March 22nd at 1:30 pm MDT.**

“This advance announcement informs our community of the upcoming Pennington County Emergency Communication Test, to encourages everyone to consider safe actions if the communication had warned of an actual emergency event – such as a tornado.” said Matt Connor, Public Information Officer for the City of Box Elder.

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City of Box Elder Box Elder is a growing community and gateway City to the Black Hills region of South Dakota. With a population of over 11,746 residents, we are the eleventh largest city in South Dakota and home to the Ellsworth Air Force Base (EAFB) with the B21 expansion program now underway. New and exciting development opportunities are on the horizon. We are *Soaring to New Heights for our Community*. For more information, please visit www.boxelder.us.