



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS AND MANAGER

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News Release

Emergency notification system is being implemented in Union County

December 9, 2011, Monroe, NC – Union County has contracted with Emergency Communications Network to license its CodeRED high-speed notification solution. The CodeRED system provides Union County officials the ability to quickly deliver emergency messages to targeted areas or the entire county.

“CodeRED enables us to initiate a mass calling of a selected area or the entire county with a single recorded message informing residents of action steps they should take in the event of an emergency,” said Union County Emergency Communications Director Larry Brinker.

Brinker cautioned that such systems are only as good as the telephone number database supporting them. “If your phone number is not in the database, you will not be called,” Brinker said. “One of the reasons the CodeRED system was selected is it gives individuals and businesses the ability to add their own phone numbers directly into the system's database, this is an extremely important feature.”

Brinker urges all individuals and businesses to log onto the Union County website at www.co.union.nc.us and follow the link to the “CodeRED Community Notification Enrollment” page. “No one should automatically assume his or her phone number is included,” he said.

Those without Internet access may call 704-283-3572 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to provide their information over the phone. Required information includes first and last name, street address (physical address, no P.O. boxes), city, state, zip code, and primary phone number. Additional phone numbers can be entered as well.

All businesses should register, as well as all individuals who have unlisted phone numbers, who have changed their phone number or address within the past year, and those who use a cellular phone or VoIP phone as their primary number.

“CodeRED allows geographically based delivery, which means street addresses are required to ensure emergency notification calls are received by the proper individuals in a given situation,” Brinker explained. “The system works for cell phones too, but we need to have an associated street address to provide relevant messages.”

CodeRED gives those who want to be included an easy and secure method for inputting information. The data collected will only be used for emergency notification purposes. Questions should be directed to the Union County Emergency Communications Department at 704-283-3572.

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