



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –
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County Encourages Citizens to Sign up for New Emergency Notification Service

FAYETTEVILLE, NC– (August 25, 2011) – Cumberland County Emergency Services has contracted with Emergency Communications Network to license its CodeRED high-speed notification service. The CodeRED system provides county officials the ability to quickly deliver weather warnings and other urgent messages to targeted areas or to the entire county.

Emergency Services Director Kenny Currie 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," Currie said. The system will give individuals and businesses the ability to add their own phone numbers directly into the system's database.

"No one should automatically assume his or her phone number is included," Currie said, urging all individuals and businesses to log onto the County's website, www.co.cumberland.nc.us, and follow the link to the "CodeRED Community Notification Enrollment" page.

Residents are able to supply as many phone numbers for one address as they choose; however, they cannot supply numerous addresses for one phone number. Citizens can also supply email addresses and choose to receive text messages. At the bottom of the link, they will notice the Weather Warning box. This is where they choose whether or not they wish to receive the weather warnings, and if so, which warnings they want to receive (flash flood, tornado, and/or severe weather).

Citizens without Internet access may call the Emergency Management Office at 910-678-7641 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to supply 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.

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. The system works for cell phones too, but we need to have an associated street address to provide relevant messages," Currie said.

"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," Currie said. Questions should be directed to the Emergency Management Office at 910-678-7641.

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