## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Emergency Notification All-Call Planned For July 24**

FAYETTEVILLE – Cumberland County Emergency Services will test its emergency contact database on Wednesday, July 24. An "all-call" will go out through the Emergency Communications Network, providers of the county's CodeRED emergency notification and weather warning service. Calls will start going out to county residents about 10 a.m. and continue throughout the day.

The all-call will test approximately 150,000 telephone numbers in the county's recently updated database, giving citizens the opportunity to find out if they are included in the main emergency alert files and providing them the option to sign up for free CodeRED severe weather warnings.

"If you do not receive a call on July 24, it means you are not in our database at all," said Cumberland County Emergency Management Program Coordinator Gene Booth. To ensure you can be contacted for emergency notifications, go to the county's website at <a href="www.co.cumberland.nc.us">www.co.cumberland.nc.us</a> and click on the CodeRED icon. You have the option to receive general notifications and severe weather warnings in addition to emergency notifications. You may also call 910-321-6822 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for assistance in signing up.

Emergency Services officials note that a call on July 24 only confirms a citizen is in the county emergency notification database; it does **NOT** mean they are enrolled to receive CodeRED weather warnings for tornadoes, thunderstorms and flash floods. Citizens have to opt-in for the weather alert service.

"If you receive a call and would like to sign up for CodeRED weather warning or if you want to update your current information and add a phone or other device, you will be able to do so," Booth said.

CodeRED's weather warning product taps into the National Weather Service's Storm Based Warnings. The service automatically alerts affected citizens in the path of severe weather just moments after a warning has been issued. Based on the National Weather Service's polygon methodology, only citizens in the path of projected weather are contacted.

The July 24 all-call test and update will allow community members to easily identify calls coming through the systems. Caller ID will read Emergency Communications Network or 866-419-5000 for CodeRED emergency notification calls. And for CodeRED Weather Warning calls, either Emergency Communications Network or

the number 800-566-9780 will appear on Caller ID displays. Citizens are encouraged to save both telephone numbers in their contacts for easy recognition.

For more information about Cumberland County Emergency Services, go to <a href="https://www.co.cumberland.nc.us/emergency\_services.aspx">www.co.cumberland.nc.us/emergency\_services.aspx</a>. The department is located in the Law Enforcement Center at 131 Dick St., Fayetteville.

Please see the attached Frequently Asked Questions for more information.