

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FULL TEST OF COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 16TH
ALL RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES IN DAKOTA COUNTY SHOULD EXPECT A PHONE CALL
FROM NEW DCC SYSTEM

The Dakota Communications Center (DCC) will put the new “CodeRed” notification system to the test on Wednesday, September 16th, when we deliver a test message to every known phone number in Dakota County. The test is scheduled to begin in mid afternoon and conclude by early evening.

The new system, which went on-line September 8th, was installed to help public safety agencies communicate with the public during emergencies. Hazardous materials spills, pandemic warnings, missing children or vulnerable adults are some of the circumstances when the system would be used.

“September is National Preparedness Month,” said Kent Therkelsen, the DCC executive director, “Which makes this an ideal time for residents and the agencies that protect them, to verify our systems are working as planned. The test will let us know if there are any unforeseen issues we should plan for in the event of a true emergency notification need.”

While the system contains nearly 260,000 residential and business telephone numbers, residents and businesses are encouraged to self-register their mobile phones, text devices and e-mail addresses before next week’s test. The DCC strongly encourages people who rely on mobile phones, have recently moved, have changed phone numbers or those who wish to receive notification by text or e-mail to self-register. Residents can choose more than one way to be notified. Information collected will only be used for emergency notification purposes.

During the test, residents and businesses will receive a brief recorded message announcing the test and encouraging self registration of cell phones. **People should not call the DCC in response to the test call.** Caller ID will display 866-419-5000, which can be called to repeat the recorded message. The system will leave a message on phones equipped with voice mail in the event of no answer. To register or learn more, people may visit the DCC Web site at www.mn-dcc.org and click on the “CodeRed” link. Those without internet service may contact the Dakota Communications Center at 651-322-8660, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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