

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FULL TEST OF COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM HELD
OVER 232,000 CALLS DIALED**

The Dakota Communications Center (DCC) tested the new “CodeRed” notification system on Wednesday, September 16th with calls placed to every known phone in Dakota. The system is intended to allow quick notification to the public in the event of hazardous materials spills, pandemic warnings, missing & endangered children or vulnerable adults.

The test last just less than five hours, with 232,388 calls placed. 73.2% of telephone numbers in the system data base were successfully contacted with the test message. The unsuccessful contacts were primarily disconnected numbers or numbers that were continuously busy or had no answer and no voice mail system. According to Emergency Communications Network, the provider of the CodeRED system, the typical success rate with large notifications is 65 to 70%

In the 24 hours since the test began, approximately 2,000 people have self registered their cell phones for the system. “The self-registration activity we have seen since the test began demonstrates the strong public interest in emergency notification” said DCC Executive Director Kent Therkelsen. “Feedback we are receiving is overwhelmingly in favor of this approach to public warnings during times of emergencies.”

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.

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.

NOTE: We had previously reported over 250,000 phone numbers as the Dakota County total, based upon the number of records included in the 9-1-1 data base supplied to us by Qwest Communications. After the Qwest data was uploaded to the CodeRed system the number fell to just over 171,000 records. In follow-up we have determined that CodeRed searches for duplicate records (Subscriber address and phone number are identical) and removes the duplicate record. This accounts for the smaller number. The test began with a database of 173,525 registered numbers. The 232,233 calls placed represent those numbers, plus the re-dial attempts on the non-connected calls.

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