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October 1, 2001, Rice & Steele Counties, along with the cities of Faribault, Northfield & Owatonna launched a “reverse 9-1-1” notification system for use during emergencies, which allows city and county officials the ability to deliver urgent pre-recorded emergency telephone messages to targeted areas or to the entire city at a rate of up to 60,000 calls per hour. Called CodeRED, this high-speed telephone emergency notification service can be used in the event of hazardous materials spills, floods or other emergencies that can affect people’s safety or health.

Read Further To Learn How You Can Register For This Life Saving Critical System.

@Frequently Asked Questions

What is An Emergency Notification System?

An Emergency Notification System is a system that allows government entities to contact citizens in the event of an emergency in their area. The system has several different methods of contacting citizens including traditional residential landlines, business lines, voice pagers, VoIP or digital "cable" phones, and cell phones.

Do Rice & Steele County and the cities of Faribault, Northfield & Owatonna Have An Emergency Notification System?

Yes, Rice & Steele County and the cities of Faribault, Northfield & Owatonna contracted with Emergency Communications Network, for its "CodeRED®" high-speed telephone emergency notification services. The CodeRED® system gives our City & County Officials the ability to deliver pre-recorded emergency telephone notification and information messages at a rate of up to 1,000 calls per minute.

How Can I Be Certain I can be Contacted?

CodeRED® updates the database every year. If your phone number is unlisted, you have recently moved, or if you only have a cellular phone, we may not have your information. Even if you have a listed home phone number, you should still register.

Does Code Red Support TTY/TDD for the Hearing Impaired?

Yes. When you go to register using the online form you must click on the TTY/TDD option on the bottom of the page.

Does Code Red Support Text Messaging?

Yes. When you go to register using the online form, make sure to put in your text messaging address. (your phone number + your carriers text messaging portion of the address. Example: 507363xxxx@sprintmessaging.com)

What Information Do I Need to Supply?

Since the CodeRED® system works on geographical location, you must enter your home or business physical address, city, and zip code into the system as

well as the phone numbers that you wish to receive the CodeRED messages from your community.

Do I have to pay extra for the CodeRED® service?

No. CodeRED® is a shared system, entirely paid for by Rice County, Steele County, and the Cities of Northfield, Faribault and Owatonna.

Does this mean we will be calling you constantly?

No. The Counties and Cities respect your privacy. CodeRED® will be used only when urgent situations arise that you should know about.

Can I arrange to have CodeRED® call my place of business?

Yes. Using the online registration form be sure that when the Residential Data Collection form opens you click on the button labeled "Click to Switch to Business Data" and fill in the required information. Please note that emergency calls can only be delivered to a direct dial number. Automated attendants will disrupt the process and calls will not be delivered. You may also want to consider excluding some business numbers if you use a PBX system to avoid overloading your system when multiple calls begin coming in. For additional information about CodeRED® visit www.coderedweb.net.

If you do not have internet access, you can go to your local Public Library to register. OR ask a family member or neighbor with internet access to register for you.

Where Can I Go To Register?

Rice County: www.co.rice.mn.us

Steele County: www.co.steele.mn.us

City of Northfield: www.ci.northfield.mn.us

City of Faribault: www.ci.faribault.mn.us

City of Owatonna: www.ci.owatonna.mn.us

City of Blooming Prairie: www.bloomingprairie.com

City of Ellendale: www.ellendalemn.com

City of Medford: www.medfordminnesota.com

City of Lonsdale: www.lonsdale.govoffice.com

City of Morristown: www.ci.morristown.mn.us