



Serving Citizens since 1853

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nicollet County Sheriff's Office switches from Everbridge to the CodeRED Community Notification System

New high-speed notification solution for time-sensitive messages and alerts

Nicollet County Sheriff's Office, May 27, 2021 – Nicollet County, is proud to announce the launch of our new CodeRED community notification system to send important alerts and time-sensitive messages to staff members and residents. Along with emergency and critical messages, the CodeRED notification system can also enhance community engagement via the release of important but non-emergency information and other non-emergency services.

“Upon evaluating our previous notification system and other available options, we chose CodeRED for its innovative features, user-friendly platform, and wide-spread adoption rates across the country,” said Sheriff Dave Lange. “Their company-owned redundant data centers help ensure every resident's data is safe and that messages are delivered quickly and reliably to thousands of individuals within minutes. We're excited to expand our communication channels with residents to include text, phone, email and social media platforms, providing the information they need to know to make better informed decisions during an emergency.”

CodeRED Key Benefits

CodeRED will deliver several benefits for residents and enable staff to more efficiently manage and distribute notifications before, during and after emergency and non-emergency events:

- Registration for this notification service is customized, allowing residents to choose which alerts they'd like to receive, as well as their preferred channel.
- Residents can select several different methods including landline, cell phone, email, text message, TTY, or even a combination. These alerts can be specific to streets, neighborhoods or regions, so individuals within affected areas are sure to receive relevant information.
- Residents and visitors can keep track of alerts in Nicollet County with the CodeRED Mobile App, which notifies smartphone holders of real-time alerts in the area. Similar to the online registration, users choose which notifications they'd like to receive via the app.

- Authorized Nicollet County personnel will have access to the CodeRED Launcher - an app that allows authorized public safety officials to create and send messages on the go from any smartphone or tablet within seconds, without requiring a computer.
- Staff members can also use the system to communicate emergency information with one another. This will help us ensure our emergency response and daily operations are even more efficient.

Nicollet County has also added the capability to deliver emergency alerts via the nation's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System, known as IPAWS. This added capability provides Nicollet County officials with an effective way to alert the public about potentially life-threatening emergencies through the Emergency Alert System (EAS), Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), and NOAA Weather Radio. The new capabilities will work in conjunction with the existing emergency alert system, CodeRED.

"By integrating these additional emergency alerting methods within our CodeRED system, we're able to become even more efficient at notifying residents of emergency events or imminent threats, saving time and redirecting valuable resources elsewhere in order to better protect our community in times of crisis." said Sheriff Dave Lange

CodeRED with IPAWS Benefits:

The new IPAWS capability is mainly intended to warn the public of emergencies that pose an imminent threat to life and/or personal safety.

IPAWS disseminates alerts through:

- cellular devices
- TV & radio
- NOAA weather radios

CodeRED disseminates alerts and community messages through:

- Phone (hardwire & cell)
- SMS (text messages)
- E-mail
- Mobile app push notifications
- Social media sites
- TTD devices
- And more

When activated together, CodeRED and IPAWS measurably increases outreach and our ability to reach all citizens that may be impacted by an event.

Nicollet County public safety officials can use CodeRED with IPAWS to:

- Target only those within the impacted area of an event - down to a specific neighborhood – eliminating irrelevant notices to others who are not affected.
- Include additional pertinent information in CodeRED messages, such as instructions and other helpful details.

Those enrolled in CodeRED are encouraged to save the following telephone numbers in their phone's contacts to ensure they can differentiate future warnings received: Emergency Communication 866-419-5000, Emergency Communication Weather Alert 800-566-9780, and General Communication 855-969-4636.

Residents who have not yet enrolled or who have recently changed their contact information are encouraged to visit <https://www.co.nicollet.mn.us/830/CodeRED> and add or update their information. Residents can also text **Nicollet** to 99411 on their mobile devices to register.

Those interested in learning more about the IPAWS program are encouraged to visit <https://www.onsolve.com/solutions/products/codered/ipaws/>

“The mobile technology for CodeRED is extremely advanced, providing us enhanced flexibility to issue general and/or emergency messages from any location,” said Sheriff Dave Lange. “We can launch alerts from anywhere at any time, and residents impacted by weather and other time-sensitive events will receive them directly to their smartphones. This all happens within minutes, which can make a huge difference in saving lives.”

All residents are encouraged to visit <https://www.co.nicollet.mn.us/830/CodeRED> to sign up for CodeRED and immediately start receiving these informative, life-saving alerts. For more information on the CodeRED notification system or registration, please contact Emergency Manager Justin Block at 507-934-7874 or justin.block@co.nicollet.mn.us.

About CodeRED from OnSolve

OnSolve is a leading global provider of SaaS-based critical communication solutions for enterprise, SMB, and government customers. The company's CodeRED™ solution provides high-speed notification services capable of reaching millions of people in minutes and has applied its mission-critical capabilities to government, commercial, healthcare and other end markets. More information can be found on the company's website at www.onsolve.com.