

Advantages of Citizen's Alert System Evident After Recent Natural Disasters

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In light of the devastating tornados in Oklahoma this week and the severe flooding experienced in South Hall over the weekend, Hall County officials are encouraging residents to sign-up for the County's Citizen's Alert System, which could be life-saving in the event of a natural disaster in their neighborhood.

With the Hall County Citizen's Alert System, County officials are able to alert residents about severe weather, fires, floods, toxic environmental issues and in-process violent crimes. Messages can be sent to individuals using a variety of contact mechanisms- cell phone, landline, email, text messaging, pager, and more - ensuring that residents and Hall County staff receive life-saving emergency information and important public service announcements in minutes. Citizens listed in the County's 9-1-1 database have been automatically subscribed to alerts by landline, though any individual may self-register, provide additional contact information or opt out by logging on to hallcounty.org and clicking on the Citizen's Alert icon.

"The ability to reach all residents quickly during an emergency like the ones we've seen first-hand and in the news this week is critical to our efforts," said Hall County Emergency Management Director David Kimbrell. "The Citizen's Alert System ensures Hall County first responders will be able to react quickly and efficiently to reach each individual in the case of an emergency."

Hall County uses the Citizen's Alert System to notify residents about other important activities, such as road closures and water utility maintenance. In fact, the alert system was utilized this weekend to notify residents of the boil water advisory for customers in South Hall.

"Natural disasters on any scale are unfortunate, but we think their impact can be lessened if citizens are notified as quickly as possible, and this system allows us to do that," said Kimbrell.

Again, any citizen can sign up to receive the emergency alerts and customize them to their specific needs by logging on to hallcounty.org and clicking on the Citizen's Alert icon.