

CodeRED Frequently Asked Questions

What is CodeRED?

The CodeRED Emergency Notification System is a communication service that gives Martin County the ability to quickly provide emergency telephone, text, or email notices to its citizens in Martin County.

Why is CodeRED important and how will I benefit from this service?

CodeRED will be used for emergency incidents and events where the timely notification to people in a specific geographic area is essential. Notifications can be an emergency situation, general info about incidents, or weather related, depending on your choice. Examples of possible emergency notifications may include: chemical releases, emergency evacuation notices, or natural disasters. General notices may be about natural gas leaks, utility outages, water main breaks, emergency street closings, missing persons, crime alerts, and other information of importance to citizens. Weather alerts are specific to tornado, severe thunderstorm, and flash flood warnings [not watches] and come directly via the National Weather Service depending on your choice.

If a critical event occurs that's known to be immediately dangerous to life or health, an emergency notice will be used to provide information about what action needs to be taken and other updates as needed. General notifications may be about incidents occurring nearby that do not require any emergency action on your part.

What do I have to do to receive this benefit? Does the county already have my phone number?

The service is free to all citizens within Martin County. You are the most reliable source of information about how to reach your household or business by phone, so we highly encourage you to register. This is especially important if any of the following conditions are true:

- ☐ You would like to receive information as a text
- ☐ You have an unlisted phone number
- ☐ You have changed your phone number or address within the last year
- ☐ You use a cellular phone as your home phone

Because Martin County wants to reach everyone possible in the event of an emergency, we have pre-populated CodeRED with publically available phone numbers and addresses. This means if you have a cell phone, unlisted, unpublished or new phone number you are not currently in our system. Remember, no one can keep up with your contact information as well as you can. The new system allows you the opportunity to change your information the very day you make a change.

How do I register?

The most convenient way to register is via the CodeRED icon on our website [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#). Individuals interested in registering will be required to add a telephone number into the CodeRED database. Required information will be first and last name, physical street address (no P.O. boxes), city, state and zip code. An alternate phone number, such as a cellular phone, can also be entered and both the primary and alternate line will be contacted in the event of an emergency. The system works with cellular phones but requires the cell phone number to be associated with a street address in Martin County. Residents with a telephone but without internet access or the visually impaired may fill out the form at the end of this information sheet and drop it off at the Martin County Law Enforcement Center in Fairmont, fax it to (507)238-1093, or mail it to: 201 Lake Ave, Fairmont, MN 56031 for assistance in being added into the system. There is a hearing impaired / speaking impaired function available on the signup page.

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It ensures the maximum amount of communication to the citizens of Martin County. The check box for TDD / TTY devices is under the fields for entering the individual's phone number on the signup page.

What is the difference between an Emergency Notification, General Notification, and Severe Weather Notification?

Emergency Notifications will only be initiated if there is an immediate risk to your health or safety. If your phone number is known, you will receive an emergency notification if your geographic area is affected. This means if we have your phone number we will call you if it's believed there is an imminent risk to your health or safety.

General Notifications can be any public safety related alert not deemed an imminent risk to health or safety. The residents and businesses of Martin County must sign up to receive these alerts. OPT-IN means you must deliberately check a box on the webpage in order to get the general notifications. These can be notices of current incidents occurring nearby that you may want to know about even if they don't present an immediate danger to you.

Severe Weather Warning Notifications are sent directly from the National Weather Service. You can choose to be alerted for Tornado, Severe Thunderstorm, or Flash Flood Warnings affecting your address. The residents and businesses of Martin County must sign up to receive these alerts. OPT-IN means you must deliberately check a box on the webpage in order to get the weather notifications.

Does this mean that the county will be calling me constantly?

Martin County respects the privacy of its citizens and will only notify you when emergency situations arise that have the potential to be dangerous to your life or health. You will also be notified if you choose to receive general or weather alerts.

What should I do if I receive a CodeRED message?

- ▣ Listen carefully
- ▣ Follow instructions
- ▣ Don't hang up until you hear the whole message (the message will not be repeated)
- ▣ DO NOT call 9-1-1 unless instructed to do so (You will only tie up emergency lines)
- ▣ If instructed, tune to your local radio or television station for further information

What does a CodeRED message sound like?

The message will always begin with the statement "This is a message from the Martin County Sheriff's Office". The remaining text will provide information about the situation including how and if people need to respond. You may be directed to turn to a local radio or television station for updates and additional information.

Here's a sample of what you might hear:

Chemical Spill - Shelter in Place

This is a message from the Martin County Sheriff's Office. Due to a hazardous material release in your immediate area, all citizens are requested to bring in all pets, stay inside your home, turn off all heating or air conditioning and close windows and doors. Retreat to a windowless room if possible, and tape any gaps or vents that will allow outside air inside. Please do not call 9-1-1. Listen to your local radio or TV station for further information. Once the situation is resolved, you will be notified. Thank you for your cooperation.

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Chemical Spill - All Clear

This is a message from the Martin County Sheriff's Office. The hazardous materials incident has been resolved and it is now safe to resume normal activities. No further action needs to be taken. Thank you for your cooperation.

Will the system work with cell phones?

Yes, but your cell phone number needs to be associated with your Martin County address (this notification only applies to incidents occurring in Martin County, MN). We encourage you to register your cell phone number.

What happens if my line is busy?

CodeRED will make 3 attempts to call busy numbers and will leave a message on an answering machine or your voice mail if you have that capability.

Will CodeRED leave a message on my voicemail?

CodeRED will leave a message on an answering machine or your voice mail if you have that capability.

What if I have a telemarketing call block or other teleshopper device on my home or mobile device?

To allow CodeRED messages to get through, program your phone to allow calls from 866-419-5000 [Emergency], 855-969-4636 [General], and 800-566-9780 [Weather] if those are the choices for notices you selected. These numbers are toll free.

What should I do if I don't receive a message?

The primary reasons you may not have received a call are:

- ☐ Your area of the community may not be affected. If that is the case, you won't receive a call even if it's only a block away.
- ☐ The system received a busy signal after three attempts to reach you.
- ☐ You have a telemarketing call block or other teleshopper device on your phone or mobile device that has not been deactivated
- ☐ Your phone number and address don't match up, or are not even in the system. In that case, click the CodeRED icon on our website, [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#) and follow the instructions.

What do I do if I do not want to be on the CodeRED call list?

Individuals that prefer not to receive any CodeRED messages can be added to a 'Do Not Call List'. To remove your name and contact information from the system, please contact the Martin County Sheriff's Office at 201 Lake Avenue. There is a form to fill out and a number you must call from your home phone.

Does my information stay secure?

ECN maintains full personal information confidentiality. The information retained in the signup for the service is retained in ECN property and will not be disclosed unless compelled to do so by a court of sufficient jurisdiction. The privacy statement pertaining to individual's signup information is contained on the signup page. Scrolling to the bottom of the page and clicking "Privacy Statement" link.

I do not have internet access, but would like to be registered with the CodeRED system.

Location Details:

Address to be monitored: (No P.O.Box, please)

_____ Apt. # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Residence Business

Is this address a mobile or manufactured home? _____

Contact Information:

Name _____ Email _____

Phone 1 _____ Phone 2 _____

Mobile (Carrier: _____)

TDD/TTY

Tone delivery, for hearing impaired

Mobile (Carrier: _____)

TDD/TTY

Tone delivery, for hearing impaired

Alert Types:

Emergency Notifications

General Notifications

Severe Weather Notifications

Raising the bar in public safety, CodeRED Weather Warning is a unique service that automatically calls citizens in the path of severe weather just moments after a warning has been issued by the National Weather Service. This limited CodeRED Weather Warning subscription is available to you at no direct cost.

To receive these calls, check the warnings you are interested in from the list below.

Phone 1 Warnings:

Tornado

Severe Thunderstorm

Flash Flood

Fax to Martin County Sheriff's Office, (507)238-1093

Drop off or Mail to: Martin County Sheriff's Office, 201 Lake Ave, Fairmont, MN 56031