

SOUTH CENTRAL ALERT

On Tuesday, November 15, the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners and Commissioners from other Counties unveiled South Central Alert. This is an eight County regional mass notification system to be used to notify the public of serious emergencies. It will enable Emergency Management officials to get disaster information to the general public in many cases.

The system currently has residential and business phone numbers from the white and yellow pages. If a resident or business has an unlisted number, Voice over IP service such as Vonage, or does not have a wired line phone, they must register and enter the phone numbers into the system.

Lancaster County Citizens are urged to register their cell phones, texting devices and other communication methods in the secure system. To do so, citizens should go to <https://www.sctfpa.org/scalert> and click on the link to sign up for alerts. You can list up to five locations for which you want to be notified and up to 10 different methods for contacting them. A video has been developed explaining the system and can be seen on YouTube at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6wZUu6fQZE>.

The system will provide early warnings and information, but does have some limitation. For example, a county wide warning such as a Tornado, may take over 90 minutes for messages to be sent out due to the sheer number of calls, however, a local emergency warning can go out in a matter of seconds,. The system is another tool to convey clear, accurate information to our citizens in an emergency.