



Parish of Ascension

OFFICE of COMMUNICATIONS

KENNY MATASSA
Parish President

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ascension Parish Institutes Free Community Emergency Alert System

President Kenny Matassa announced today that tomorrow, Tuesday December 4, Ascension Parish residents can begin signing up for a new community alert system. Ascension Parish Government, through the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, will begin using the new Community Alerting System to communicate with citizens and businesses during emergencies and other critical events; the actual alert system will go live in January 2019. Residents and business are encouraged to register to receive these alerts at www.ascensionparish.net/ohsep/communityalert.html.

The system is through Everbridge, a worldwide leader in unified critical communications, and will alert residents about a variety of events, ranging from severe weather, hurricanes, floods and other emergencies, to more routine announcements, such as road closures and water utility maintenance. Messages will be sent to residents on any or all of their preferred methods of communication - cell phone, SMS, home phone, email, fax, pager and more - to ensure real-time access to potentially lifesaving information. Residential landlines listed with local telephone companies will be automatically enrolled, but this function will only be used during the most crucial, life threatening emergencies. The system allows citizens to self-register, provide additional contact information and multiple addresses they care about, or they can opt out completely.

The new Ascension Parish Community Alerting System also gives residents the opportunity to enter in any special needs they may have. This allows the Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness to send specific information to those individuals with special needs, and contact them directly during times of emergency.

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“We have an obligation and commitment to ensure public safety, community awareness and emergency response,” said Matassa. “So when critical information and public service announcements are available, we need to reach our residents as quickly and reliably as possible.”

“The Everbridge emergency notification system allows the Parish and cities to disseminate emergency information across all types of devices; ensuring residents have access to real-time public information when they need it the most,” said Rick Webre, Director of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness. “A resilient, comprehensive critical communications system is an essential tool for a growing parish like Ascension that needs to notify thousands of residents and businesses rapidly and efficiently.”

Register for The Ascension Parish Community Alerting System now at www.ascensionparish.net/ohsep for more information. If you have any questions, or require assistance registering, contact Ascension OHSEP at 226-621-8360.