



“Alert Portsmouth”
City of Portsmouth’s New Emergency Notification System

July 27, 2011- The Office of Emergency Management is pleased to announce a new tool to rapidly communicate emergency messages to citizens.

The City of Portsmouth purchased the Universal Communications system (UCS) from Columbus, Ohio based Twenty First Century Communications. With UCS, Portsmouth is able to send time sensitive, targeted messages to select groups and geographic areas. The system is capable of reaching landlines, cellular VoIP phones, Blackberrys/PDAs, and TTY/TTD devices for hearing impaired. It also sends messages via SMS/text messaging, fax and email.

Currently, the contact database includes all residential and commercial landline phone numbers. Citizens are encouraged to register additional methods of contact, such as cell phone numbers, VoIP numbers, and email addresses by visiting www.portsmouthva.gov/eoc or using this link: [Alert Portsmouth Signup](#).

The primary use of the system will be to disseminate messages pertaining to health, safety or welfare of the city when affected by a perceived, emerging, imminent emergency event. With UCS, Portsmouth will be able to send emergency notifications for situations such as: evacuations, water contamination alerts, severe flooding, and other perceived, emerging, or imminent emergencies that Portsmouth officials determine UCS would be effective as a communications tool.

Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services
Fire Administration

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