

CITY CONNECTION

October 2, 2007

Emergency Notification System: CodeRed

To better inform Payne County citizens of emergency situations, the Payne County E-911 Board uses an emergency notification system known as CodeRed. This high-tech system is capable of sending pre-recorded, customized messages directly to home and business telephones within Payne County.

Emergencies may include natural disasters, search and rescue, crime, manmade disasters, and incidents involving public works. Local officials in every jurisdiction of Payne County, including the City of Stillwater, can notify people in effected areas of the county—from just a few locations to all of Payne County—whenever citizens need rapid information concerning emergency situations.

To do this, CodeRed uses sophisticated Internet mapping capability coupled with a high-speed telephone system that can deliver messages at a rate of 60,000 calls per hour to individuals and answering machines in the targeted areas.

Emergency notification systems like CodeRed have been in the news recently due to events such as the Virginia Tech shootings last April. In fact, Oklahoma State University recently added the CodeRed system to its campus, which allows for voice and text messages to be sent to faculty, staff and students. Payne County's system has been up and running for the past three years, and was most recently used to warn people of flooding in the Perkins area last June.

The implementation of a system like CodeRed is an example of how local governments working together can provide enhanced services to the citizens they serve.

City Connection is brought to you by the City of Stillwater as a public service to provide regular information about City services and to respond to general questions asked by the public about their local government. Today's information is provided by the Stillwater Police Department. For further information, please contact Emergency Management Services at (405)742-8277.