

Code Red – Be sure you are in the know

We are approaching that time of the year again, when the warm temperatures will announce the possibility for severe thunderstorms in our community. We know these may always bring the potential for damaging hail, winds, lightning, and even tornado. Additionally, we will soon find ourselves in the season for wildfire again. If you work, live, or play in our communities, make sure that you have the Code Red emergency notification system on your home, office, or cellular phone to receive critical information.

Code Red is the Emergency Notification tool that is used in Elbert County that is capable of sending general notifications, weather warnings, and emergency communications to our citizens county wide. The system was instrumental in many of the incidents last year that included the County Road 102 fire and the June EF-2 tornado that leveled one home and severely damaged hundreds more. The County Road 102 fire could be seen for miles and would force the evacuation of many who lived near the fire and included the evacuation of the town of Elbert. The Code Red system allowed for community members to receive messages on their home phone, cellular phone, email, and text with pertinent information and instruction about the current events. During the storm seasons, the system will automatically issue the severe weather watches and warnings from the National Weather Service if they are in your area. This system is free and available to anyone who wishes to use the system inside Elbert County. If you only work here and still wish to use the notifications, simply register your employment address.

If you have questions on the system and would like help signing up, be sure to contact the Office of Emergency Management or visit the community enrollment page at www.elbertcounty-co.gov. When disaster strikes your area, be sure you are in the know. As we move toward another year of potentially dry weather and severe weather, make preparedness part of every family planning initiative and have a wonderful spring and summer season.

Complimentary article by Cory Stark, Director of Elbert County Emergency Management.