



Village of Skokie

July 27, 2010

For Immediate Release

Skokie Initiates CodeRED® Emergency Telephone Notification System

Community Test Set for August 3, 2010, 10 a.m.

The Village of Skokie is developing an emergency telephone notification system to contact residents and businesses quickly in the case of an emergency. Through the CodeRED® system, the Village can send automated telephone messages quickly and efficiently in the event of an emergency. The brief message will provide information on the emergency situation and any important instructions. During an actual emergency, residents will be instructed to listen to 1660 AM Skokie, the Village radio station, for additional information.

On Tuesday, August 3, 2010, at approximately 10 a.m., the Village of Skokie will conduct a test of the CodeRED® system. The short message will alert residents and businesses to the new system and direct them to the Village web site if they would like to enter additional telephone numbers.

Most home and business phone numbers of Skokie properties have already been added to the system. If a resident or business does not receive a call on August 3, they should visit www.skokie.org to register their number. Residents without a computer should ask a friend or relative to visit the web site and add their numbers. There is no fee to residents or businesses for the service or for adding additional phone numbers.

CodeRED® will be used solely at the Village's direction for emergency and important information. The Village respects residents' privacy and intends only to activate the system in true emergency situations, such as:

- Hazardous chemical spill or release
- Missing persons
- Evacuations
- Water system concerns
- Hazardous weather
- Security alerts

The high-speed telephone calling system is capable of making several thousand calls per hour to traditional landline phones, cell phones and voice over internet protocol (VOIP) phones. CodeRED® delivers messages to both answered phone lines and answering devices. The system allows the Village to phone the entire community in two to three hours and the system also can target smaller geographic areas within the community for alerts that don't apply to everyone, such as a water boil order in specific neighborhood.

Anytime CodeRED® is used, the number displayed on the receiving phone caller ID will be 866/419-5000. This number also functions as a message repeat feature. A resident can call this number back at anytime, and the last message delivered to the specific phone will play, along with the date and time of the message. Residents can save this phone number and name it CodeRED®, so that when an emergency message from the Village is received, CodeRED® will appear on the caller ID of the receiving phone.

“This new emergency telephone alert system is an additional measure of safety the Village believes is important to protect the community,” comments Fire Chief Ralph Czerwinski. “If electric power is interrupted, residents might not be able to depend on television or computers for information. If residents receive a CodeRED® message, they can tune their battery operated or vehicle radio to 1660 AM Skokie for further information and updates, this will provide continuous information even if they don't have electrical power.”

Village Hall

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www.skokie.org
SkokieVision Municipal Cable
1660 AM Skokie

Council-Manager Government

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Awards and Distinctions

All America City Finalist
American Public Works Association
(APWA) Accreditation
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Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA)
Commission on Fire Accreditation
International (CFAI)
Fitch IBCA AAA Financial
Bond Rating
Gold Level Clean Air Counts
Community
Governor's Hometown Award
Government Finance Officers
Association Budget Award
Government Finance Officers
Association Certificate of
Achievement for Excellence in
Financial Reporting
Insurance Services Office (ISO)
Class One Fire Department
State of Illinois Certified Health
Department
Tree City U.S.A. Distinction

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For more information on the CodeRED® system, please visit www.skokie.org. If you do not have access to a computer, please contact Communications Coordinator Roger Wilson at 847/ 982-5916 for assistance.

For more information:

Ralph Czerwinski, Fire Chief

847/983-5320