

DIFFERENT TAKES ON GETTING THE WORD OUT

Agency	System mission	Type of technology	Approximate cost
Palm Beach County School District and Palm Beach County Emergency Operations Center, Fla.	Keep parents, students and the general public apprised of emergencies; it is also used for routine activities such as parent notification of student attendance.	Communicator! NXT, a Web-based notification system from Dialogic Communications Corp. (DCC) that automates outbound telephone calls and text-based messages.	\$81,000 with no federal contribution.
Columbia County Emergency Services Division, Ga.	Transmit routine information, such as road closures, and keep the public apprised during emergencies.	A multichannel notification system that uses DCC's Communicator! NXT, and radio and TV broadcasts via the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's radio alert system and the federal Emergency Alert System.	\$14,000 annually.
Jefferson Davis Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness and Jefferson Davis Parish Sheriff, La.	Provide residents with emergency news and warnings.	A wireless and Web-based text-messaging alert system developed by Roam Secure.	\$71,000, paid with funds from the Homeland Security Department.
Mississippi Office of Homeland Security.	Get targeted information to citizens and frontline responders during a crisis with a system that is not dependent on landline or cellular communications.	Delivers text messages via the existing FM radio infrastructure using the GSSNet First Alert System from Global Security Systems.	\$1.6 million, funded through federal grant money.
Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff, Calif.	Warn citizens of potential disasters; it started as a means to notify neighborhoods near refineries and petrochemical plants of accidents.	Sirens and local media broadcasts; the sheriff's office is testing a new wireless messaging system that uses SquareLoop's Mobile Alert Network.	About \$1 million annually, with costs offset almost entirely by industries that store or handle hazardous materials in the county.
Economic Development Council of Collier County, Fla.	Broadcast storm alerts and other threat-related information and provide a two-way dialogue with business and community leaders during crises.	A two-way communication service that uses the Short Message Service format, delivered by Neighborhood America's MOVO service offering.	An annual license starts at \$10,000.