

National Capital Region Text Based Emergency Alert and Notification System Connects Governments with Citizens and Community Leaders During Emergencies

By Jeremy R. Moss, ESQ.

As community leaders and community managers, many *Quorum*[™] readers are charged with responsibilities and duties to the community associations they serve. Part of the duties owed to those community associations is the duty to stay informed of local events and emergencies that may impact our communities.

Since 2005, it has become easier for first responders, key governmental personnel, community leaders, and the general citizenry in the area served by WMCCAI to stay informed in the event of a major crisis or weather emergency.

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In 2005, the Washington, DC region was the first major metropolitan region in the country to adopt and implement a common platform for text-based emergency alerts. During recent incidents, including the London bombings on July 7, 2005 and Hurricane Katrina in late August 2005, text-based messaging systems provided reliable means of communication, even when voice-based channels became overloaded and inoperable. Almost all major jurisdictions have now deployed the National Capital Region Text-Based Emergency Alert and Notification System. The System provides an effective channel of communication from government authorities to members of the general community.

Participation in the system and receipt of text-alerts is voluntary for community leaders and registration for text-alerts takes only a few minutes. For more information on your jurisdiction's emergency alert system, or to sign up for alerts, please visit your

jurisdiction's emergency alert Web page listed below or visit www.roamsecure.net/ncr.php

Virginia

City of Alexandria (<https://enews.alexandriava.gov/>)

Arlington County (<https://www.arlingtonalert.com>)

City of Fairfax (*Coming soon...*)

Fairfax County (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean>)

City of Falls Church (<http://alert.fallschurchva.gov/>)

Loudoun County (<http://alert.loudoun.gov/>)

City of Manassas (<http://alert.manassasva.gov/>)

City of Manassas Park (<http://mp.alertncr.com/>)

Prince William County (<https://alert1.alert.pwcgov.org/>)

Maryland

City of Bowie (<http://alert.cityofbowie.org/>)

City of College Park (<http://www.cpmalert.com/>)

City of Gaithersburg (<http://alert.gaithersburgmd.gov/>)

City of Greenbelt (<http://alert.greenbeltmd.gov/>)

Montgomery County (<http://alert.montgomerycountymd.gov/>)

Prince George's County (*Coming soon...*)

City of Rockville (<http://alert.rockvillemd.gov/>)

City of Takoma Park (<http://aviso.takomagov.org/>)

The District of Columbia

District of Columbia (<http://textalert.ema.dc.gov/>) 



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