

For Immediate Release



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If Hurricanes Hit in 2005, How Will You Be Informed About Emergencies? CodeRED System in Margate Can Help

Margate, FL June 3, 2005 – With hurricane season upon us, the time to prepare is now. You may have already started to gather your supplies, especially with the help of the new hurricane preparedness sales tax holiday, but what have you done to make sure you stay informed about what happens in your community after the storm? A program called CodeRED may be able to assist.

We usually all know when a hurricane is on its way. Long hours staring at the television weather reports, conversations at work, and logging on the National Weather Service website come to mind. But what happens after the storm has come and gone? The electricity could be out of service for days. In order to help keep citizens informed, several cities in south Florida are taking part in a system called CodeRED. The city of Margate is one of the participants.

Emergency Communications Network's CodeRED is a database that can launch up to 60,000 calls per hour to notify citizens about emergency situations with a pre-recorded message. The calls can be received by a live person or recorded on an answering machine. David DiGiacomo, Vice President of operations for Emergency Communications Network, explains that calls can be mapped to reach specific neighborhoods or an entire city. He also noted that, "the heaviest use of the system occurs with missing children, Alzheimer's patients, where to go before a hurricane and where to get supplies after a hurricane."

Public Information Officer for the city of Margate, Kery Venezia noted, "We currently have 15,934 registrants in our database, which is a great response. At this point we want to make sure that everyone's information is correct and current, and to remind those that haven't signed up yet to do so." She goes on to explain, "if you live in Margate, and have not yet registered or you have moved since you originally registered, please log on to www.margatefl.com find the CodeRED link on the lower left of the page, then follow the instructions to register your name, current address and phone number."

Regardless of where you live, do some research about what you can do in your community to stay informed before the worst months of hurricane season arrive. Other cities that participate in CodeRED are Coconut Creek, Weston, Cooper City, Coral Springs, Coral Gables, Boca Raton, West Palm Beach and Ft. Lauderdale. Most cities have registration information on their websites, so check online first.

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