



Grant County Emergency Management

Steve Braun, Director
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To: Grant County Schools, Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Industrial Facilities, and Other Special Facilities

Re: County Emergency Management Alerting System (EMAS)

Date: April 16, 2014

The recent weather activity has prompted many calls to our office, with many questions about how facilities can better prepare for severe weather. In particular, many facilities have asked what options are available to receive emergency alerts during severe weather or other emergency situations.

For many years, Grant County has maintained an Emergency Alerting System. The system consists of radio alert monitors that are located in hospitals, nursing homes, schools, daycares, and major employers within the county. These radio alert monitors are activated by dispatchers at the Grant County 9-1-1 Communications Center to immediately communicate emergency messages or warnings when necessary. The system is used extensively when severe weather approaches the county, and is occasionally used to communicate information regarding power outages, phone/9-1-1 service disruptions, chemical spills or other critical information.



Our office has recently purchased and personally refurbished a number of used receivers that we are making available to interested facilities throughout Grant County at a cost of \$125, which includes programming and installation at your facility. This is a steep discount off of the \$400-500 a new receiver would cost. The receiver is a voice-pager that can be removed from its charging cradle during times of severe weather, and taken with you to your designated shelter area so you can continue to monitor updates from a safe location.

I strongly suggest that along with a good, S.A.M.E. Capable NOAA Weather Radio, your facility should also maintain one of these county-activated emergency alert receivers. The county emergency alerting system is not meant to take the place of weather radio, but rather to supplement it. The emergency management alerting system is activated by dispatchers in the 9-1-1 communications center in Lancaster. This means that all of the information relayed over the EMAS system is specific to Grant County. Since the two systems compliment rather than duplicate each other, your best means of preparedness is to have both types of receivers.

If you do not presently have a county-activated emergency alert receiver, your facility is missing out on critical information from our 9-1-1 communications center. If you have any questions regarding this system or would like to order a receiver for your facility, please feel free to contact our office.

Sincerely,

Steve Braun, Director
Grant County Emergency Management

**GRANT COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
ALERT MONITOR ORDER FORM**

Facility Name _____

Address _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Name: _____ Phone: _____

Contact Email: _____

Number of Monitors Desired _____.

Payment Terms: We will invoice you after the radio is installed. Depending on the construction of your building and the type of charger-base required, the actual cost per monitor may be less than \$125.

Returns: Monitors may be returned for a full refund for any reason, before January 1, 2015.

Please Return Form To:

**Grant County Emergency Management
PO Box 506
Lancaster, WI 53813
OR
FAX: (608) 723-5159
OR
Email: twhite@co.grant.wi.gov**