

Emergency Notification System
(When $\geq 10,000$ people are affected or concerned)
What Works – What Doesn't Work
Catastrophic Event

(When Messages must be delivered in seconds or a few minutes)



What Works

Public Address

Giant Voice Note 1

On Network Screen Pops

Works But Limited

Sirens Note 2

Digital Signage Note 3

Pocket Pagers Note 2

Weather Radio Note 4

VHF/UHF Radio Systems Note 5

Notes:

1. Outdoors good, limited indoor coverage
2. Limited message information
3. Road, building entrances, limited visual range
4. Useful WX only in Tornado areas / season
5. Limited to staff

What Doesn't Work

Text Messaging Wireless Devices Note A, C

Cell Phones Note A, C

Land Line Telephones Note B

Cell Walkie Talkies Note A, C

Blackberry's and Similar Devices Note A, C

Reverse 911 Systems Note A, B, C

Notes:

- A. Cell Wireless systems have very limited channels and immediately become a serious constraint –Blocked/overloaded
- B. Switching systems overload at local and regional levels.
- C. Due to its use as a proven terrorist triggering system, governments may immediately shut down cell systems. It is alleged to have happened during one event.

Basis:

Review of events - London Bombing, Spain Bombing, 9/11 New York, 9/11 Pentagon, Columbine, Virginia Tech 2007, Federal Building OKC, Tornado Events