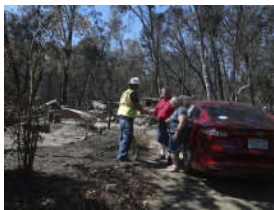


Shasta County residents advised to register cell phones with Code Red notification system

Amber Sandhu, Redding Published 5:34 p.m. PT Jan. 2, 2018 | Updated 7:51 p.m. PT Jan. 2, 2018



Taking lessons from the devastating fires that burned through Southern California and the Bay Area, public safety agencies in Shasta County are urging residents to register their cell phone numbers to receive emergency alerts in case of emergencies.

The Community Notification System, also known as Code Red, is being rolled out with the help of the Shasta County Sheriff's Office, Redding Fire Department, the Redding and Anderson police departments, and SHASCOM.

More: [Road closures and evacuations lifted in Shasta Lake fire \(/story/news/local/2016/09/11/update-road-closures-and-evacuations-lifted-in-shasta-lake-fire/93756190/\)](#)

And while there is a current alert system in place, Gray said it's limited to landlines.

"We've always had a system," Redding Fire Chief Gerry Gray said about notifications. "But we're seeing more and more people just don't have landlines anymore."

According to the Centers for Disease Control, nearly half of American households did not have a landline telephone, but did utilize a mobile phone. The overall trend showed that landline ownership was on the decline, and cell phone ownership was increasing.

Gray said they've used the notification system for nearby fires and the floods. And while the service is a "gem to have," it still leaves out people who are mostly mobile phone owners. But once people register their numbers with the Code Red service, they will receive alerts if a fire breaks out near their home and they are under immediate threat. People can also register email addresses to the system.

The alerts notify residents living on a specific street, neighborhood or community, without creating alarm for residents who weren't in danger's path.

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In September 2016, Shasta County Supervisor Steve Morgan and his wife, Pam, who is on the Shasta Lake City Council, lost their home in the Lake Fire that burned through 80 acres, took down three homes and endangered 40 more.

The Morgans weren't home at the time of the fire, and didn't get cell phone notifications, but did get the notification through their landline. However, it was no use. Their landline phone was burnt.

More: [Deputies: DUI driver suspected of starting fire that destroyed several homes in Shasta Lake \(/story/news/local/fires/2016/09/10/deputies-dui-driver-suspected-of-starting-fire-that-destroyed-several-homes-in-shasta-lake/93757634/\)](#)

But since the fire, the Morgans have rebuilt their home, and estimate they'll move in sometime in February.

The plan to register their cellphone numbers with Code Red.

"And I plan on telling people at work to register too," Pam Morgan said.

To register for the Community Notification System, visit www.shascom911.com (<http://www.shascom911.com>) and click the Code Red icon at the bottom of the page.

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