



# HARDIN COUNTY FOCUS



November 2011

Judge/Executive  
Harry L. Berry

## County Government Introduces a Citizens' Notification System

Local governments have a unique responsibility to maintain public welfare and communicate critical information effectively to its citizens.

Timely communications during urgent situations is essential. For this reason, your county government implemented a Citizens' Notification System to alert you (via your telephone or other communication device) of circumstances that might affect you and your family.

### Register for Notifications at [www.hcky.org](http://www.hcky.org)

If your phone number is listed, you are already in our system. If you wish to be notified via your cell phone, e-mail, or other communication device, or if you wish to receive information other than emergency alerts such as: power outages, missing persons, and weather alerts, you need to tell us by registering at our website: [www.hcky.org](http://www.hcky.org). It's an easy process—just follow the link on our home page to register your preferred contact information. If you do not have internet access or need assistance, please call Doug Finlay at our Emergency Management Center at (270) 765-5978.

We will only notify you of the information you choose to receive. We can provide you with information such as: road closures, missing persons, hazardous material spills, power outages, flooding potential, wild fires, and severe traffic jams. In the event of a disaster, we will provide you with critical information such as evacuation plans, shelters, and emergency distribution, feeding, and warming centers.

If there is *ample* time, we will send out a notification of impending weather conditions. Remember to use weather radios and local media for weather alerts. **This is not an emergency weather notification system.**

### Internal Communication Purpose

Our notification system serves another function aside from notifying the public. It will assist us with our internal communication need. Government cannot compromise public safety during major disasters by the time it takes to contact their key personnel. Rapid coordinated communication is essential to enable your government agencies to function as a unit in a crisis. A good example is our most-recent ice storm where large sections of our county were without electricity. It is critical for your government to disseminate timely and reliable information to the numerous jurisdictional and disciplinary agencies, first responders, command teams, volunteers and elected officials.

Your local cities and county governments, as well as private emergency response organizations within our community are constantly planning and training for emergencies—but always hoping their plans will never be implemented. This notification system simplifies their ability to quickly execute those emergency management plans.

Rapid coordinated communication between governments and private agencies is essential to function in a crisis

