Moving Forward with Reverse 911

With an eye on safety, and the help of a federal grant, West Wendover, Nevada is now better prepared for improved emergency response.

Thanks in part to an annual grant funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration Nevada Site Office, the West Wendover fire and police departments were able to put into place what is known as a Reverse 911 system. This system, also called CodeRED, creates a telephone number database containing the contact information of individuals, businesses and organizations in the area. This gives officials the ability to quickly deliver urgent or emergency messages to specific areas or the entire West Wendover, NV area as well as Tooele County in Utah.

The effectiveness of the system largely depends on individuals and organizations logging onto West Wendover City's <u>website</u> and inserting their contact information on the "CodeRED Community Notification Enrollment" page.

"CodeRED is not a Reverse 911 system that will only call home phones attached to the local phone system," said West Wendover City Fire Chief Jeff Knudtson. "By going online and entering your cell phone information, this system will also send text messages. This will allow everyone in the home to get a notice of an event."

The <u>annual grant</u> responsible for the CodeRED Reverse 911 response system is funded through the Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG), supported by the <u>Nevada Site Office</u>.



Since 2000, more than \$10 million in grants have been distributed to six Nevada counties, leading to the purchase of emergency response tools such as ambulances, fire trucks (above photo shows Lincoln County fire engine), and communication equipment, as well as the construction of vital training facilities and emergency services buildings.

This community grant is funded by a fifty-cent per cubic foot fee charged for radioactive waste disposal at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS, formerly the Nevada Test Site). This is in addition to the regular fee charged to the national network of approved waste generators for disposing low-level and mixed low-level waste at the NNSS.

EPWG consists of representatives from each of the six participating counties (Clark, Elko, Esmeralda, Lincoln, Nye and White Pine) through which low-level and mixed low-level radioactive waste shipments travel en route to the NNSS. The EPWG is co-chaired by representatives from the Nevada Site Office and the State of Nevada Division of Emergency Management.

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