Klamath County, through support from and coordination with Klamath County Emergency Management, the Board of County Commissioners and Klamath County Information Technology, has purchased a mass communications system called Civic Ready. Civic Ready allows the citizens of Klamath County to sign up to receive emergency notifications through email, text message, and voice calls.

“These systems are becoming very commonplace across the nation, and I’m glad we’re now able to provide the service to Klamath County residents,” said Emergency Manager Morgan Lindsay.

Civic Ready is part of Klamath County’s brand new website redesign. Citizens can sign up for the service by going to klamathcounty.org and scrolling down the page to find the bell icon with the label “CivicReady”; click the icon and follow instructions to set up a user account. The “Alert Sign Up” icon is separate and different; it allows citizens to be alerted about government affairs.

The Emergency Management Office would like Civic Ready users to be aware of the following things:

1. It is most beneficial to create an account that has your address included; this allows responders to send you specific notifications for your location. For example, you could receive a Level 1, 2, or 3 evacuation notification based on exactly where your home is within the evacuation area.
2. When you sign up, you will be enrolled into two groups – “All Emergency”, which includes evacuations, and NOAA “Weather Alerts”, which includes severe thunderstorms, winter storms, and floods. You can remove yourself from either group by going to your profile, groups, and choosing “leave group”.
3. You can add phone numbers and email addresses to receive notifications in your profile. You can also choose how you want to receive notifications (text, email, voice call) by checking and unchecking boxes.
4. In the weather alerts group, you can choose to NOT receive voice call recorded messages (as weather alerts can happen daily, many may wish to not receive so many calls). You can go to your profile, notifications, and select “Off” for the Klamath Weather Alerts Voice Alerts.
5. Voice alerts will come from the number 541-273-4155. This number has been set up as a recorded message line, and will be updated with information in times of disasters in Klamath County.
6. It takes just a few minutes to sign yourself up. However, Emergency Management is available to assist you, if needed. Send an email to mlindsay@klamathcounty.org with the following information: first and last name, full street address, email(s), cell phone number(s), other phone number(s), and if you want to receive weather alerts.
7. Some notifications are sent to all users in the system. However, the specific area for the notification may not include your area. Pay close attention to the area in the alert. For example, a severe thunderstorm warning for areas near Rocky Point is very unlikely to affect residents in Bly.

Emergency Management would also like the community to know that their information is secure within the system. “Here’s hoping we use it very infrequently,” said Lindsay, “but this level of information sharing is key to our community’s preparedness.”