

For Immediate Release

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Emergency Alert Notifications

Jefferson County has more than its fair share of meteorological events, and new technology can help residents get the latest alerts and information.

Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management now offers emergency alert notifications by text, e-mail, Twitter, and Facebook through a product called Nixle. In order to sign up for these alerts go to <http://local.nixle.com/register> or text your zip code to 888777 and then text JCHSEM to the same number. There is no charge to sign up for Nixle services.

"We appreciate the help and cooperation of our traditional media sources and local TV and radio stations," JCHSEM Director Barbara Miller said. "This is a new way we can communicate quickly and directly with people who want information about weather advisories and events in Jefferson County."

According to the company, "Messages are targeted to specific geographic regions. If your address falls within this geographic area, you'll receive the message. Add as many locations as you'd like from across the country."

In other words, people who may live in Washington, D.C., Charleston or even Texas can sign up for alerts if they want to keep up with what's happening where they grew up or have a second home. In addition to the text and e-mail options, once people register they also can choose to log onto the Nixle website and view recent alerts.

Messages include winter weather and thunderstorm warnings, high water alerts, wind advisories and related information. These alerts can also be viewed by following Jefferson County, WV Homeland Security and Emergency Management on Facebook or on Twitter, @JCHSEM.

"We want to make sure we deliver accurate information as quickly as possible in the ways that people are most comfortable with," Miller said. "Our ultimate goal is to make sure that people are able to take appropriate action to remain safe during potentially dangerous times."

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