

NEWS RELEASE FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT Rebecca Socknat, Coordinator Phone: (712) 222-4421 rsocknat@woodburycountyiowa.gov FAX: 712-224-5310

Upgrades to Emergency Notification System Beneficial to Woodbury County

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Woodbury County, Iowa — Upgrades to Iowa's emergency notification system, Alert Iowa, are making it easier for residents of Woodbury County to sign up and receive alerts about severe weather and other emergencies.

Alert Iowa is a statewide emergency notification system the county uses to send alerts to residents. Improvements to the system will enable Woodbury County officials to better communicate emergency information thru voice call, text message, email, and social media. The system also now has the capability to translate messages into multiple languages.

"Alert Iowa will make it easier to push real-time alerts to residents when emergencies occur or when we need to share important safety information," said Rebecca Socknat, Woodbury County Emergency Manager. "These upgrades will also let residents choose what alerts they receive and how they receive them."

Signing up for Alert Iowa is easy and can be done through the county's web portal, by sending a text, or by downloading the Smart911 app. To sign up:

- Create an account on the Woodbury County web portal at <u>http://bit.ly/WoodburyAlerts</u>
- Download the Smart911 app from the Apple or Google Play stores.
- Text WoodburyIA to 672-83 to receive all Woodbury County alerts.
- To opt-in to your community's alerts:
 - Text "your city" followed by "IA" to 672-83 (i.e. MovilleIA)

Woodbury County will transition to the upgraded system on June 30, 2021. Residents who are currently signed up to receive alerts will need to sign up again before this date.

Watch for updates on Woodbury County Emergency Management's Facebook and Twitter pages.

Additional information on the system is available at https://homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/alert-iowa/