



FORSYTHCOUNTY
Department of Communications
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORSYTH COUNTY OFFERS NEW WEATHER ALERTS

Sign up is free and easy

FORSYTHCOUNTY, Georgia – Forsyth County government is pleased to announce a new tool to rapidly communicate weather alerts to citizens.

The Forsyth County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) is utilizing TFCC Alert from Columbus, Ohio-based Twenty First Century Communications. With TFCC Alert, Forsyth County residents will be able to sign up to receive time-sensitive weather alerts. Citizens can elect to be notified when alerts are issued via telephone calls, emails or text messages. There is no cost for citizens to sign up to receive these weather alerts, but phone usage or text charges may apply.

What type of alerts does the system send out?

The weather alerts will be sent out for three severe weather situations:

- severe thunderstorm warnings
- flash flood warnings
- tornado warnings

How do I sign up?

- The online registration process is user-friendly and takes no more than a few minutes to complete. Those who have already registered contact information with the county are not automatically registered for these severe weather alerts. Residents must register and opt-in to receive these alerts.
- Visit the Forsyth County Web site at www.forsythco.com.
- Look for the ‘Sign up to receive Forsyth County Weather Alerts’ icon on the home page. The sign-up is also available under the Emergency Management Agency (EMA) department page.

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- Click on the link provided, which will direct you to a secure sign-up page hosted by Twenty First Century Communications.
- Register by clicking on 'Register Now'.
- Once registered, enter your address, telephone number and cell phone number. Registering your phone as a cell phone will indicate that you wish to receive both phone call and text message alerts on your cell phone. Standard messaging rates apply for text messages. If you do not wish to receive text message alerts, do not register your phone as a cell phone. You will still receive phone calls but you will not receive text messages.
- Select which weather alert(s) you would like to receive.
- You will be asked to verify the information entered.
- Residents may also register up to five additional contacts, such as parents, siblings and spouses, under their account.
- Any changes or updates to account information must be done by the account holder, as the county does not have access to the information.
- Weather alerts which are sent via telephone calls will come from 770.205.5674. Alerts sent via email will come from 'weather@forsythco.com'. Alerts sent via text message will come from 53430.
- Upon receipt of such alerts, residents are encouraged to tune in to their local news/weather television or radio station to receive more details on the weather conditions.

The information provided during registration determines the geographical region of the county for which a citizen will receive an alert.

“This alert system utilizes the National Weather Service weather polygon,” EMA Coordinator Lorraine Morris said. “Therefore, a user who has signed up for the alerts will only receive a notice when a severe weather alert is issued for their specific portion of the county. The notices will be sent based on geographical regions.”

Forsyth County EMA recommends residents use the new weather alert notifications in concert with other notifications, including a NOAA weather radio and the county’s outdoor severe weather sirens. The sirens, which are located throughout the county, will be sounded only when the county is placed under a tornado warning.

“This alert system is one more tool Forsyth County is employing to help our citizens be better informed and better prepared for severe weather,” Fire Chief and EMA Director Danny Bowman said. “As always, we encourage residents to be alert and stay informed of severe weather that may impact Forsyth County.”

For questions regarding the weather alerts, call the Forsyth County EMA office at 770.205.5674.

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