

The City of Waterville is pleased to announce *City of Waterville Alerts*, a notification system that provides emergency and/or service alerts to the public via text (SMS) and email. The system is free and offered to anyone choosing to opt in, whether they live, work, play, or have family in Waterville.

Public sign-up is available by visiting <u>www.lucascountyalerts.com</u> and entering your name, desired contact information and address. Scroll to the listing for the City of Waterville and make your selections for which type of notices you would like to receive. Lucas County Alerts will provide public notifications for emergencies to include, but not limited to snow emergencies, tornadoes, and amber alerts. Lucas County supplements current emergency warning methods such as outdoor warning sirens, the emergency alert system, and tone-activated weather radios.

The City of Waterville is partnering with Lucas County and several other municipalities for community alerts. Community alerts go beyond emergency alerts, providing our residents community information such as road closures, leaf pick up, trash schedules, etc. The partnership between local communities and the County provides a more efficient and cost effective system for the County and local communities to keep their residents informed.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Does this cost anything? *City of Waterville Alerts* is a free service, provided by the City of Waterville. However normal message fees may apply. Contact your service provider for more information about what fees apply to you.

<u>Why do you need my address?</u> If an emergency only affects a neighborhood or region within the county, *City of Waterville Alerts* has the ability to send an alert just to the residents that live in the affected area. By giving us your address, you will be able to receive alerts about nearby emergency situations which may not affect the city.

<u>I don't live in Waterville. Can I sign up?</u> Yes, you can still sign up even if you are not a Waterville or even a Lucas County resident. Many people who work or have family in Lucas County choose to subscribe to stay aware of relevant emergency situations. However, you will not be notified of emergencies that occur outside of Lucas County.

If you work or have family in Waterville but don't live here, you may want to enter the address of your workplace or family member's home to receive alerts about emergencies nearby that location.

<u>Why can't I sign up for voice calls?</u> Text messages and emails are the fastest and most efficient methods of sending emergency alerts to a large number of people. Voice calls – even automated ones – take a long time to send, and in emergency situations, it is essential to get the message out as quickly as possible. It may take hours to send a voice call to every resident at times when residents need to know in a matter of minutes.