



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Date: Friday, January 15, 2010

TUSTIN TO TEST ALERTOC MASS NOTIFICATION EMERGENCY PROGRAM

The test will occur on Wednesday, January 27th at 7:00 pm.

TUSTIN, Calif. – On Wednesday evening, January 27th at 7:00 p.m., the City of Tustin will send an introductory test AlertOC message to its residents.

“AlertOC gives the police department and other first responders the ability to communicate time-sensitive and life-saving information during times of emergency. I hope our citizens will take advantage of the system and sign up at www.Alertoc.com so that they may receive emergency alerts at their phone number of choice,” said Mayor Jerry Amante. “Tustin is continually planning and updating technologies for emergencies like fires, earthquakes, and other disasters that could happen at any time in our community. During an emergency, information changes often and we want to have the ability to give fast, updated, and accurate information to all of our citizens.”

The test is designed to assess the workability of the system, the accuracy of emergency contact information, to provide staff training, and to remind the public of this important service. The message will be sent to all landline household telephone numbers within the City of Tustin and to all phone numbers that have been entered into the system by citizens preferring to be contacted at alternate numbers.

City of Tustin 300 Centennial Way, Tustin, CA 92780

Page 1 of 2



TUSTIN



If a residence with a listed landline does not receive the test call, he or she should visit www.AlertOC.com to enter their contact information in the secure database.

AlertOC is a mass notification system designed to keep Orange County residents and businesses informed of emergencies and certain community events. By registering with AlertOC, time-sensitive voice messages from the County or City in which you live or work may be sent to your home, cell or business phone. Text messages may also be sent to cell phones, e-mail accounts and hearing impaired receiving devices.

AlertOC is a fairly new program in Orange County, however there have been several examples of its successful use. Yorba Linda used the system to alert residents of a fire assistance shelter and for mudslide information. Newport Beach used the program to alert residents of a dangerous suspect before he was apprehended. La Habra used the system to alert citizens that their 911 cables had been severed and provided an alternative emergency number. Perhaps the most significant use of the system was in Laguna Beach where the system was implemented to locate two children who had run away from home. Thanks to tips, the children were found in a wilderness area setting up camp and were reunited with their families just hours after they left home.

For more information about Wednesday's test, contact (714) 573-3222.

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