

# WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



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## MEDIA RELEASE

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**A new tool which will allow for high-speed emergency notification of county residences will soon be unveiled in Washington County, VA. According to Washington County Sheriff Fred Newman, the Citizens' Emergency Alerting System (CEAS) is a combined effort of the County's Information Systems Department, Emergency Services Department and the Sheriff's Office. "An emergency notification systems grant was applied for and the County was successful in securing over \$27,000 in grant funding for the project," said Sheriff Newman.**

**"The system utilizes a database of telephone numbers and addresses linked to a mapping system," stated Information Services Manager Nadine Culberson. "The system uses the existing maps to identify a specific emergency area, grabs phone numbers within the area, and rapidly sends telephone alerts using multiple outgoing phone lines." A Citizens' Emergency Alerting System (CEAS) makes it possible for residents to be alerted in the event of severe weather, fire, floods, hazardous materials spills/leaks, natural gas leaks, missing persons, and other emergency situations.**

**"It is not necessary to register traditional wire line phones," said the Sheriff. "These numbers are already part of the E911 telephone database." If you are a resident of Washington County and have a cell phone or a phone that uses an internet connection (VoIP), you must register these numbers to insure that you receive alerts. Each resident is responsible for the registration and updates of cell phones and VoIP telephone numbers. The information that is provided is confidential and will only be used for emergency notification purposes.**

**“There are a number of ways to register your phone numbers,” said Ms. Culberson. “You can visit <http://www.washcova.com/ceas> to fill out a registration form online, or the Sheriff’s Office and Information Systems Department will have booths at Plum Alley Day, the Washington County Fair, and various county events to assist in registration.”**

**If you need assistance or have questions concerning the Citizens’ Emergency Alerting System, please call 276-525-1360 or email [ceas@washcova.com](mailto:ceas@washcova.com).**