

ArapAlert Could Be the Difference Between Safety and Tragedy

By Cathy Raley, executive director of the Arapahoe County 911 Authority

When Texas was hit with devastating floods this summer, many people didn't know of the emergency situation until it was too late. There are many reasons why evacuations did not happen in time and so many people tragically lost their lives. One thing we can control, should a major emergency like this happen here in Arapahoe County, is that we can get emergency alerts out immediately, and residents can help themselves by signing up for ArapAlert.

Here in Colorado, the Marshall Fire remains a searing memory. In December 2021, fires whipped through Boulder County at unimaginable speed. Many survivors reported they never received an evacuation warning before their homes were lost. It remains one of the most destructive—and most instructive—tragedies in our state's history.

These stories have one thing in common: when emergency alerts fail, the consequences can be catastrophic.

That's why the Arapahoe County 911 Authority is rolling out upgrades to ArapAlert, our robust emergency notification system to keep you informed when every second matters.

The new system will deliver alerts by phone call, text message, email, and a mobile app push notification—having multiple methods increases the likelihood of notification. It's powered by mapping technology that will be continually updated, allowing first responders to target alerts to specific neighborhoods or even individual streets. That precision means less confusion and faster evacuations.

That's why we're asking every Arapahoe County resident to take two simple steps today:

1. **Sign up for emergency alerts** at <http://www.ace911.org/arap-alert>.
2. **If you previously signed up for ArapAlert, you need to sign up again.**

Once you're signed up, take the next step in preparedness. Make a family emergency plan. Identify two routes out of your neighborhood. Pack a go-bag with essentials like medications, important documents, chargers, and pet supplies. Decide where your family will meet if you get separated.

You may never need these plans—but if the worst should happen, you'll be grateful you do.

Sign up today. Stay informed. Stay safe.