



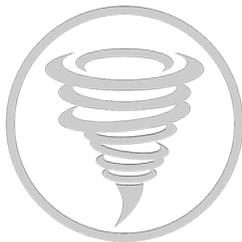
Build a kit.
Make a plan.
Be aware.



What is Alert Iowa?

Alert Iowa is a statewide mass notification and emergency messaging system. The system can be used by state and local officials to quickly disseminate emergency information to residents in counties that use the system. Alert Iowa allows you to sign up for the types of alerts you want to receive in your county, and sometimes for specific cities and school districts. The county emergency management agency may even collect information about special needs that affect you or your family so the proper assistance can be sent in an emergency.

Watches & Warnings



Choose the types of alerts you would like to receive.

Specific Communities



Pick alerts for specific counties, and sometimes cities or school districts.

Special Needs



Notify the local emergency manager if you have any special needs.



If you need assistance, contact the Alert Iowa coordinator at 515.725.3231 or alertiowa@iowa.gov.



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Frequently Asked Questions

How do I know if my county participates in Alert Iowa?

The majority of Iowa counties have opted to participate in Alert Iowa. To find out if your county participates, visit the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD) website and click the Alert Iowa logo: www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov.

How do I sign up for Alert Iowa?

Once you have determined that your county uses the Alert Iowa system, link to their Alert Iowa sign-up page from the Iowa HSEMD website. Then, enter your contact information and choose the alerts you would like to receive.

Will I be charged for receiving Alert Iowa messages on my cell phone?

The service itself is free, however, standard texting rates will apply. Check with your wireless carrier to determine how and when you are charged for text messages according to your current wireless plan.

Can I sign up to receive alerts for multiple counties?

Yes. In fact, if you live and work in different counties, you may want to sign up to receive alerts for both counties, or for alerts in a county where a family member resides.

Does Alert Iowa know where I am? Is it tracking me?

No. Alert Iowa messages are broadcast to mobile devices that have been registered to receive alerts. The system doesn't have the ability to track your phone's location.

How often will I receive Alert Iowa messages?

You may get very few Alert Iowa messages, or you may receive more frequent messages if conditions change during an emergency. The number depends on the number of watches and warnings that you have signed up to receive for your area.

What is the best way to receive an Alert Iowa message?

Text messages are the best way to receive an Alert Iowa message. Wireless (and land line) networks can become overloaded in an emergency. Text messages are faster than voice calls and will not bog down wireless networks.

What if I don't want to share my personal information?

The information provided to Alert Iowa will not be shared with any outside party, and it is kept confidential according to Iowa law. Any information provided by you will only be used in case of an emergency. This includes any special needs that you have that you have shared to help responders in case of an emergency (if you are vision- or hearing-impaired, confined to a wheelchair, have special medical equipment like oxygen or a ventilator, if you have a service animal, etc.)

What if I need to update or change my contact information or preferences after I sign up?

If you need to update your information, you will need to complete the sign-up form as if you are signing up for the first time. Any information you input will overwrite the previous information provided.