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An Ounce of Prevention...

General George S. Patton once said, “Prepare for the unknown by studying how others in the past have coped with the unforeseeable and the unpredictable.” Your parents probably said it another way, like “learn from the mistakes of others.”

It is always interesting to observe how other public entities handle crises that could potentially affect the health and safety of the public. It’s a great opportunity to learn about what was handled well and if there are processes that could be improved in the future. After watching and reading many of the news reports about the water contamination issue that recently occurred in a nearby city, it became apparent that people expect, and deserve, prompt and accurate communication from their city during a crisis. This is the perfect time to evaluate the communication protocol for Murray City, *before* we are in an emergency and need to reach out immediately to affected residents and businesses.

One of the best options for providing information during an emergency is the use of an Emergency Notification System (ENS). The ENS provides a means to send telephone, SMS text, and email notifications regarding emergency situations or critical public safety information to residents and businesses. Messages can be sent to thousands of people simultaneously, with the ability to select certain geographic areas that are impacted.

Will you receive notifications of an event in Murray? In order to be added to this notification system, which is managed by Valley Emergency Communications Center (VECC), residents and businesses need to register a phone number or email address. To sign up, please visit the home page of our website, www.murray.utah.gov and follow the link titled “Register for the Emergency Notification System” under our “What’s Happening” tab.



On the topic of being prepared, some of you may have been shaken awake by the earthquake that occurred during early morning hours in Herriman in mid-February. Fortunately, there were no serious injuries reported, but this serves as a reminder that we live in a state that regularly experiences earthquakes. With the threat of the “big one” hovering over us, preparing for the worst can help ease the anxiety of wondering how we will react. I encourage our residents to visit the website “Be Ready Utah” at www.utah.gov/beready/earthquakePreparedness.html to learn some tips and strategies for being prepared in advance for a natural disaster. Murray City employees participate in an annual “Shake Out” earthquake drill to practice evacuation procedures. Additionally, the city has an established Emergency Operations Center (EOC) where key city personnel regularly gather to discuss and practice how to keep essential city services active in the event of a catastrophe.

Murray City utilizes several communication methods to keep our citizens, businesses, and visitors updated. Of course, we rely on our website to post pertinent information about issues that may be important to our community. We also reach out using social media, particularly Facebook and Instagram. In addition to providing information about serious issues, we also share details about cultural arts programs, recreation, historical facts, and spotlights of employees and departments. The more options we use to reach our community and share information, the better the chance of you becoming informed.