COLUMBIA COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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Press Release

Director William Black

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE DATE: January 22, 2013

Columbia County will be utilizing the CodeRED Emergency Notification System on February 1, 2013, to conduct a test by calling all the registered numbers in the county.

The calls will be in the morning beginning at 10am and will continue until the entire database has been attempted. This call will give county personnel the chance to operate the system as if there had been an emergency.

The message that is being delivered directs recipients to the county web site to add additional contact numbers, and it also asks that recipients spread the word by mentioning the system to family, friends and neighbors.

Patrick Grattan, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, suggests that "all individuals and businesses should take the time to visit our website and add contact information to include cellular phones and other non-traditional phones as well as email and text addresses. If your contact information is not in the database you will not receive a call when an urgent message is sent." In particular businesses should register, as well as individuals who have unlisted phone numbers, who have changed their phone number recently, and those who use a cellular phone exclusively or have VoIP phones (such as Vonage) as their primary numbers.

Grattan urges citizens to log onto the county website at <u>www.columbiacountyny.com</u> and follow the CodeRED link at the top of the page. Those without Internet access may call 518-828-1212 Monday through Friday from 8am to 4pm or 518-828-1263 anytime. Required information includes a street address (physical address, no P.O. boxes) for location purposes and a primary phone number. Additional phone numbers, email and text addresses may also be entered.

If you do not receive the call on Friday please go to the website above and register or if you have previously enrolled ensure that your information is correct in the system.

More information about the CodeRED system is on the county website, any questions should be directed to the Columbia County Emergency Management Office at 518-828-1212 or Columbia County 911 Center at 518-828-1263.