



The City of
OKLAHOMA CITY

News Release

Public Information Office

200 N Walker • Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Telephone 405 297 2578
FAX 405 297 3124

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Contact: Kristy Yager, 297-2550/582-0803
Kristy.yager@okc.gov

OKC promotes emergency alerts for people with sensory disabilities during Severe Weather Expo

Oklahoma City residents with hearing disabilities, blindness and vision impairments can learn about free disaster text and email alerts offered through the City during the Severe Weather Awareness Expo from noon - 4 on Saturday, March 7 at Penn Square Mall.

An accessible video inviting people with hearing and vision disabilities to the expo is available by clicking [here](#).

The City's Emergency Management staff will be at the United Way's table helping people sign up for the accessible alerts and providing information about tornado safety, disaster response and what to do when you hear the City's outdoor warning sirens.

The alert messages include information about the emergency and what actions to take. It is designed to respond primarily to "threat to life and property" events. The subscriber-based service is free to Oklahoma City residents through AHAS. Residents can click [here](#) to subscribe.

The alerts are sent out in American Sign Language video, English voice over, and the English text of the message, and it will also transmit that information to refreshable Braille readers.

Alerts are sent to subscribers with zip codes in the affected area of the emergency or disaster. The system sends accessible alert messages in American Sign Language (ASL), English voice and transcript to internet and video capable devices such as computers, cell phones, smart phones, tablets, and wireless devices.

To keep the AHAS transmission system at optimal performance levels, Oklahoma City Emergency Management requests that only residents who have hearing or vision impairments register for alerts.

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