

CAC's Emergency Warning System Facts Sheet

Central Arizona College's Emergency Warning System (EWS) became operational in September of 2010. The primary purpose of the EWS is to enhance the College's ability to reach all students, faculty and staff with time-sensitive information during unforeseen events or emergencies.

The system has several elements for redundancy purposes (see concept of operation diagram below). The blue *Talk-A-Phone®* towers serve a dual purpose; they are emergency phones used to contact Campus Police at the Signal peak Campus, or the local law enforcement agency at the Aravaipa and Superstition Mountain Campuses. They are also part of a public address system and can be utilized to warn persons outdoor of impending emergencies via pre-recorded messages. Police and security officers can also use the towers as a local public address system.

The second element in the EWS consists of the *AlertUs®* beacons for indoor warning purposes. The beacons are small yellow boxes (approx. 8" x 8") installed at strategic locations inside each building in the three campuses. In an emergency, they will activate simultaneous with the towers. The beacons will alert persons via flashing lights and audible alarm; they will also display a text message notification with the nature of the emergency and instructions.

The third element of the system is a software enhancement to the district's *Cisco®* telephone system which allows warnings to be issued via the telephones; in this mode the system is used as a public address system. Every phone speaker is activated, within one of five zones, when the proper code is used. This will be the primary warning method for the centers. They can also provide supplementary information after the initial activation at any campus. All three element operate simultaneously but independent of each other; failure of one element will not hinder the performance of the remaining two.

The EWS will be activated by trained certified users throughout the district upon determination that an emergency condition exists. EWS is another step in the district's quest to assure a safe college experience for our students, staff, and visitors.

