

Heartland Update

Emergency Notification in the Community

Over the years, Alberta has experienced emergencies such as severe weather or storms, tornadoes, floods and fires. With highways, railways, pipelines, and heavy industry in Alberta's Industrial Heartland and surrounding region, there is also potential for hazardous material release and industrial emergencies.

Getting the right information to the right people at the right time is one goal of emergency management. In Alberta's Industrial Heartland, members of the local mutual aid emergency response organization **Northeast Region Community Awareness Emergency Response** (Northeast Region CAER) have access to a **telephone notification system**. Contact information is collected from residents and businesses within emergency planning zones (EPZ) of industrial facilities and placed into a notification database. In an emergency, those in the database may be called and given safety information. Residents outside a company's EPZ can provide their information to Northeast Region CAER directly to be entered in the notification database. **Systematic drive-around** is also used to notify people in the immediate vicinity of an emergency. Emergency responders drive the area to contact those not reached by other methods.

Another key resource in the Heartland is the **UPDATEline (1-866-653-9959)**, where Northeast Region CAER members post information on current industry activity. Any resident or business with questions or concerns regarding events, sights, sounds, or smells are encouraged to call this phone number to listen to automated messages. Messages have included training and maintenance activity, noises, alarms, flares, odours, and incidents.

For more information on emergency notification, contact your local municipality or Northeast Region CAER at 780-424-0162 or www.nrcaer.com.

Next Month: Alberta's Industrial Heartland Association Industry Update

Heartland Update is a monthly feature, keeping area residents informed about Alberta's Industrial Heartland. Future articles will include discussions on the challenges, issues and opportunities in the region. For more information visit www.lamontcounty.ca and go to the Heartland Update section or the Heartland website at www.industrialheartland.com.