

What is Belmont Safe Schools?

What is the cost of this service?

The Cities of Belmont & San Carlos with County of San Mateo are offering the Community Alert System service free to residents and people working for businesses located in San Mateo County. You may sign up for a SMCAAlert account free of charge. Your cell phone carrier may charge you a few pennies per text message received. The Cities of Belmont & San Carlos and the County of San Mateo do not assume any responsibility for costs charged to you by your carrier.

What is a SMCAAlert account?

Each resident of San Mateo County, or people working for businesses located in San Mateo County may sign up for a SMCAAlert™ account. You can add multiple devices (cell phones, pagers, PDAs) to a SMCAAlert™ account. An alert will be sent to each email account, cell phone and other mobile device listed in your SMCAAlert account.

How does the Community Alert System work?

In an emergency situation, an alert will be

Will my cell phone work in a major emergency?

Alerts are delivered using the text messaging (SMS network) feature of your cell



phone. The alerts come across like a page

on a pager. ALL cell phone carriers, and paging companies, offer text messaging. Nearly all phones purchased within the past few years are text messaging capable. If you are unsure, contact your carrier to ask about your phone and text messaging.

What is text-messaging and how do I sign-up for it?

Text messages are short messages sent to your phone, similar to receiving a page. Each message contains between 100 and 160 characters, or about 15 words, depending upon your carrier. An example of a text message is the notification you receive on your phone when you have new voice mail.

Most carriers activate the service automatically. You should check with your carrier to make sure your text messaging is active. See the carrier matrix for a list of carriers and contact information.

What types of alerts will be sent?

Alert types may include life safety, fire, weather, accidents involving utilities or roadways, or disaster notification such as a terrorist attack. A few examples of the types of messages that can be sent are:

Emergency Situations:

- Notify citizens of the location of the nearest emergency shelter, available bed space, hours of operation during a crisis;
- Notify citizens of available evacuation routes during an emergency;
- Activate special teams within the community, based upon an event.

Precautionary Warnings:

- Severe weather warnings;
- Activate a citizen watch group if mischievous activity is reported by the police;
- Pre-cautionary evacuation order if on high alert
- Planned Events, like parades and construction.

How do I register for SMCAAlert?

Belmont and San Carlos are two of the first cities in the county to provide residents with the opportunity to subscribe to SMCAAlert. Notices of important information and device capable of receiving email. There is no charge for emails. At anytime, users can modify their selections or unsubscribe to the automatic notifications.

Alert Examples are:

- Hazmat (shelter in place or evacuation)
- Utility outage (power, water, gas, phone)
- Winter storm warning
- Flash flood
- Road closure
- Earthquake

Follow-up alerts can be sent to update residents on a situation. Subscribers are placed in geographic groups based upon registration information; so if you reside in Belmont and work in San Carlos, you could include that information when you register to receive alerts for each city.

For additional information contact the Belmont Police Department Investigations & Youth Services Bureau at (650) 595-7400 or visit us on the web at:
www.belmont.gov

Belmont Safe Schools



**A cooperative effort of the
Belmont Police Department
and the
Public & Private Schools of Belmont**

