



# University of Connecticut

February 5, 2008

## UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ALERT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

To date, the University has installed a number of redundant systems so that we can notify as many people as possible and not be required to rely on any one system in the event a crisis occurs. The systems include sirens, code blue phones which will flash and broadcast a message in an emergency, an emergency Listserv for email messages, text messages, voice mail and recorded messages on the emergency phone line. There is also a new Web site, [Alert.UConn.edu](http://Alert.UConn.edu) that will provide information when the other systems are used and will cause a banner message to be posted on UConn Web pages.

Sirens have been installed at the Storrs, West Hartford and Law School campuses. Testing of the Storrs sirens was completed successfully during Thanksgiving week. The West Hartford and Law School sirens will be tested in the next few weeks.

The Avery Point Campus has sirens installed by the Town of Groton; however, following testing, the University is investigating whether or not those sirens should be supplemented with additional ones.

Intercom systems at Torrington, Waterbury and Stamford are being installed this spring.

The emergency List Serv email system has been successfully tested, as have the Reverse 911 feature of the Code Blue Telephones on all campuses.

The text messaging system has been tested but we remain dissatisfied with the results. While some students, faculty and staff received the messages promptly, others did not. As you may know, text messages were not intended to be an instant mass communication and delivery depends on a variety of factors. However, some vendors have developed a product that seems to deliver messages more quickly than others. Because these messages need to be delivered quickly, the University is now seeking a vendor who can meet our expectations. Further tests will need to be done after a vendor is selected.

The voice mail and emergency phone lines continue to work effectively and are used most often to let the campus know about weather closings.

The Alert Website is functional and will be activated in the event of an emergency. Testing on the banner message will occur in the next few weeks. Please refer to the [Alert.UConn.edu](http://Alert.UConn.edu) website anytime for further information.

We will continue to keep you informed about dates for future testing of the University Alert Notification System.

*Barry M. Feldman, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer*  
*Chief Robert Hudd, Associate Vice President for Public and Environmental Safety:*