

## **MECHANICSBURG BOROUGH PREPARES FOR EMERGENCIES WITH STATE-OF-THE-ART NOTIFICATION SYSTEM**

January 5, 2011

When a crisis or important event affects the Borough of Mechanicsburg, emergency responders and Borough officials must be able to reach our residents instantly with warnings, information and updates. In order to ensure that residents can be contacted quickly and effectively, Mechanicsburg has begun using an Emergency Notification System developed by Global Connect. This system gives municipalities the ability to call all of our residents, staff members or volunteers within minutes.

“The Global Connect system will allow the Mayor, Chief of Police, or other designated officials to record a message in his or her own voice and send that message to every telephone number listed in the directory within a matter of minutes,” explained Craig Bird, CEO and Founder of Global Connect. “Whether residents need to be informed of a water main break, fast-moving fire, approaching storm, or other crisis, the Global Connect Emergency Notification System is the most efficient way to reach them with the news.”

Mechanicsburg will use the Emergency Notification System to alert our residents to a wide variety of issues including crime advisories, emergency declarations, snow emergencies, street closings, special events and other matters of concern affecting the Borough. “When necessary, the system will allow us to notify everyone in the Borough with a personal voice and text message in a matter of minutes” said Police Chief David Spotts. If you have a published telephone number, that information should be automatically entered into the database. Residents will be able to opt-in to the system with their unlisted number, cell number and/or e-mail address by completing information on the Borough’s Website. The website should have the opt-in form available shortly. The system is currently operational, but is in a testing phase. It is expected that the system will be fully operational within the next few weeks.

The Global Connect Emergency Notification System uses Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) to send a message to a database of telephone numbers, email addresses or fax numbers. The system offers a number of features that render it particularly useful during a crisis:

**Instant Callback** – Residents who need additional information or require special assistance from the municipality can make a return call to a designated telephone number with the press of a single key on their telephone keypad.

**Customized Mapping Capability** – Municipalities can create a customized list of call recipients by selecting the area(s) affected by the emergency at hand. Global Connect will instantly develop the list of telephone numbers for residents in that area.

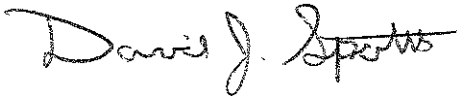
**Remote Access and Deployment** – Emergency management officials can deploy a message from any location. Only a telephone is required to record and send a broadcast.

**Real-Time Reporting** – Municipal officials can see immediately which residents have been reached by telephone, and which have received messages. The system will continue to call residents who have not been reached as frequently and as many times as desired.

“Many municipalities and school districts have already seen the benefits of the Global Connect Emergency Notification System,” said Bird. “The speed, simplicity, and flexibility of this cost-effective system make it a natural choice for public entities.”

More information on how to register your cellular number and/or e-mail address on the Emergency Notification System will be posted shortly on the Borough’s Website. Please check back in a week or two.

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David J. Spotts". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "D".

David J. Spotts  
Chief of Police