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USDA Helps Equip Norman With Weather Alert System

Kearney, Nebraska, October 19- USDA Rural Development awarded \$9,000 in emergency grant funds to the Village of Norman for the installation of an emergency warning system. The Village contributed \$3,000 towards the system. The siren will aid in the protection of Norman's 48 citizens when adverse weather conditions or emergencies threaten the community. At the present time, the Village does not have an emergency siren system.

Glen Gatz, rural development specialist for USDA Rural Development states, "The siren system will offer protection to the residents of Norman in times of turbulent weather or emergency situations." "Everyone likes to feel safe where they live and the siren will foster a sense of security within the community."

The emergency warning system, to be constructed in the right-of-way on Christen Avenue, will be equipped with a radio receiver enabling the Civil Defense to activate the siren.

The community of Norman is located in a Presidential or Secretarially declared disaster area in Kearney County. The emergency grant dollars were allocated to the Village of Norman under the USDA Disaster Assistance initiative.

USDA Rural Development is a credit arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture whose mission is to provide financial assistance to rural communities who are unable to secure acceptable credit elsewhere for housing, community facilities, and business development. Assistance provided can be in the form of grants, direct loans, and guarantees on loans made by commercial lenders.

For information regarding USDA Rural Development Loan and Grant Programs contact Glen Gatz in the USDA Rural Development Office, 4009 North 6th Avenue Kearney, Neb. 68848 or phone (308) 237-3118. Website: www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/.

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