



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTS BROADWATER

North Platte, Neb., July 23, 2004—The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development awarded today, a \$840 grant to the Village of Broadwater to assist in the purchase and installation of a new radio control unit and antenna for the Village's emergency warning siren. The siren alerts the 140 rural residents of Broadwater of adverse weather conditions. The Village will contribute \$500 towards this project with the remaining \$1,060 being provided by the Volunteer Fire Department Memorial Fund.

The new control unit will allow the siren to be activated by the Dispatch Center in the Bridgeport Sheriff's office. The Dispatch Center, through a Homeland Security grant, received a new dispatch console allowing warning sirens to be set off by radio signal. Presently, the Village's emergency warning siren is operated by a button on the outside of the Village office which, during a tornado or other emergency places the person operating the siren at great risk. The new dispatch console together with the new radio control unit and antenna will eliminate the manual operation of Broadwater's siren and improve the notification time of adverse weather conditions to rural residents.

The grant funds were awarded through the USDA Rural Development Community Facility Grant program. For additional information contact Roberta Mues, bert.mues@ne.usda.gov, 1202 South Cottonwood North Platte, Neb. 69101 or phone (308) 534-2360, (402) 437-5093 (TDY). Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/>.

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