



NEWS RELEASE

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CAN YOU HEAR IT NOW? ALL WAUSA RESIDENTS ARE HEARING THE CALL OF WARNING

Wausa, Neb., November 10, 2008— Wausa residents are receiving warning alerts by a 2001-130 rotating electro-mechanical siren that was purchased and installed thanks to an USDA Rural Development \$6,700 grant and \$12,507 from the Village.

“The safety of our residents is of prime importance to us,” stated Village Board Chairperson William Schumacher, Village of Wausa. “With the help of USDA Rural Development we have a warning siren today that brings a greater level of protection to our community.”

The prior warning siren, believed to be the original, was old and unreliable with replacement parts no longer available. Lack of backup power for the siren and its downtown location where it could not be heard by parts of the community were additional concerns.

“Protecting the citizens in rural communities is a priority with USDA Rural Development. It is a great feeling to know that we assisted the Village of Wausa with a new multi-directional early warning system that provides notice to all its residents,” stated Area Specialist Jolene Kasper, USDA Rural Development.

Today’s siren system can be heard by all 636 Wausa residents. The siren can be remotely activated and has backup power available. Residents will now be alerted timely and reliably of impending adverse weather, fires, chemical spills or threats, and possible terrorist activities so that the community can take appropriate actions.

USDA Rural Development funding provided through the Community Facility Economic Impact Initiative program. For additional information contact Jolene Kasper in the Norfolk Rural Development office at (402) 371-5350, Extension 103, (402) 437-5093 (TDY); or at 1909 Vicki Lane, Suite 103, Norfolk, Nebraska. Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/>.

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