Emergency Communication Capabilities

*Emergency Notification System:* Blackboard Connect is a notification service provided by an outside vendor that can call phones, send text messages, email information and send social media messages (via Twitter) rapidly when activated to alert community members. Because Northwestern might need to contact its community members before arrival on campus in an urgent emergency situation, Northwestern encourages its community to ensure that their contact information is current in the Blackboard Connect database. For instructions on how University community members can enter or update their Emergency Contact information, visit http://www.northwestern.edu/secs/students/emergency-information/add-or-update-emergency-contacts.html (student) or http://www.northwestern.edu/myhr/index.html (employee).

*Bulk Email System:* Bulk Email is a service provided by Northwestern University Information Technology that can send messages to University email accounts. Northwestern uses this service to send information to the campus community as appropriate.

*Main Website “Breaking News:”* Breaking News at www.northwestern.edu is a web page on the Northwestern website that can be activated in the event of an emergency. This page will provide emergency notification information and recommend protective action to be taken if needed.

*Outdoor Alert System (Evanston campus):* The Outdoor Alert System provides the ability to broadcast live voice, emergency tones and pre-recorded voice messages to all siren locations simultaneously or to any select siren location(s). The outdoor system is designed to enable the University to communicate with those people who may be outside on the Evanston campus. It is not expected that messages broadcast via this method will be audible inside buildings on campus. Broadcast of an outdoor alert system on the Chicago campus is not feasible at this time.