

Indiana Launches ALERT Notification Service

System will notify residents of escapes and environmental crises

Indianapolis, IN – January 30, 2008 - The Indiana Department of Correction, in partnership with the Indiana Sheriffs' Association, is launching a new automated system to alert residents living near a state correctional facility of public safety emergencies. The new ALERT Notification Service will keep residents informed of prison escapes as well as any potential environmental hazards.

To be notified of an alert, residents must first register for the service. To register, call toll-free 866-949-2537 and provide your phone number—cell numbers are acceptable—and the facility's ZIP code. In the event of an escape, all registrants will receive detailed information about the escapee, including a physical description and the time of the escape. The automated calls will also relay specific information on other emergencies that could impact nearby homes.

"This continues our commitment to ensure the safety of citizens living near one of our adult and juvenile facilities," said Department of Correction Commissioner J. David Donahue. "We work very hard to keep our facilities safe for everyone. This new service makes it possible for us to alert citizens at a moment's notice if problems arise."

"The ALERT Notification Service will also benefit both the community and the correctional facility," added Donahue. "As residents receive offender descriptions, they can be the additional eyes and ears that can help us locate a missing inmate."

Prior to the new service, correctional facilities relied on the news media and local law enforcement officers to get the word to nearby residents in an escape. In some cases, emergency sirens would be used to notify citizens of an emergency.

The new service is funded by a Federal grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

About the Department of Correction:

The Department employs over 7,400 employees and houses 26,000 adults and juveniles in 28 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and community re-entry centers. The Department's web page can be found at <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>.

Media Contact:

Randall Koester

Chief of Staff

Indiana Department of Correction

317.233.5541 office

317.903.7045 cell

rkoester@idoc.in.gov

**Indiana Department of Correction
Public Safety Initiatives**

ALERT Notification Service

The ALERT Notification Service provides citizens living near state correctional facilities with information via phone or cell phone regarding facility emergency situations or escapes. Registrants will receive a phone call if an emergency situation or an escape occurs and then will be notified again when the situation is resolved.

Citizens can register for the service by calling (866) 949-2537.

Sex and Violent Offender Registry

The state's Sex and Violent Offender Registry provides information on offenders required to register under IC 11-8-8-5. Users of the system can search for offenders by entering addresses, cities, counties, or offender names. For each search, users will be returned detailed offender descriptions and maps showing where offenders live, work, and attend school.

Citizens can access the state's Sex and Violent Offender Registry at www.incor.org. Questions about the registration and registry process can be directed to (317) 232-1232.

Indiana SAVIN

The Indiana SAVIN network allows Indiana residents to receive real-time information about the custody status of offenders in all 92 counties. Users can register to be notified about an offender's placement, release, transfer, or other change. There is no cost to use the service and users can access the offender information by telephone or the Internet.

Citizens can register by either calling (866) 959-8463 or by accessing www.vinelink.com.

Offender Case Management System (OCMS)

The Offender Case Management System allows local justice professionals access to information on an offender's incarceration including progress reports, risk and need assessments, and re-entry plans.

Justice Professionals can register by contacting the Department at (317) 232-6912.

Law Enforcement Notification System (LENS)

The Indiana Department of Correction and the Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center have partnered to provide law enforcement with information on offenders who will be released back to their communities.

Law enforcement interested in this service should contact the Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center at iifc@iifc.in.gov or by calling the 24-hour center at (866) 400-4432.