

Join the Dakota County Community Agency Alert Network (CAAN)

If an emergency occurs in Dakota County, we will need help from community agencies to get the word out to the public. The Dakota County Community Services Division has organized the Community Agency Alert Network (CAAN) to extend our ability to notify and alert the public.



What is the Dakota County Community Agency Alert Network (CAAN)?

The CAAN is a one-way alert and notification system from the Dakota County Community Services Division to community-based organizations in the county that would be contacted during an emergency. The goals of the CAAN are to:

- Ensure that agencies in Dakota County receive accurate and timely information on the emergency and the response to the incident.
- Provide instructions that community agencies can in turn distribute to individuals in the community so that they can take appropriate action to protect their health and safety.

Who should sign up to become a CAAN Member?



Any organization that provides services or has access to community members who might need emergency safety instructions is encouraged to participate in the CAAN. Organizations that serve people with special needs, such as people who are blind/visually impaired, deaf/hard of hearing, non-natives, or people with limited English proficiencies are particularly encouraged to join the CAAN.

What are the responsibilities of CAAN member agencies?

- If notified of an emergency, community agencies will be expected to promptly pass the information on to clients, using whatever methods that are appropriate, such as e-mail, phone calls, or mailings.
- Agencies are asked to provide the information in alternative formats to clients with special needs.
- A few times per year, members will be asked to participate in a test of CAAN system.

How do I sign up for the CAAN?

To sign up for the CAAN, go to <http://services.co.dakota.mn.us/forms/caansystem.htm> and simply enter your name, e-mail address, and name of your agency. We recommend that more than one person sign up from each agency. You may also wish to sign up a second time with your home e-mail address.

Who do I contact if I have questions about the CAAN?

Contact Tracie Lemke, Dakota County Public Health, by e-mail (tracie.lemke@co.dakota.mn.us) or phone (651-554-6158).

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