



# News Release



Shelby County Office of Preparedness  
*Mark H. Luttrell, Jr., Mayor*  
&  
*Memphis Mayor's Office of Emergency Management*  
*Jim Strickland, Mayor*

**December 6, 2016**

## **Emergency Agencies Reviewing Early Warning Notification Procedures**

As recovery operations continue in east Tennessee following the devastating fire in Gatlinburg, the Shelby County Office of Preparedness and the Memphis Mayor's Office of Emergency Management are reviewing their early warning disaster plans should a crisis lead to evacuations of homes and businesses.

**"It's vital we prepare now for how a crisis will be managed,"** said Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr.

**"Our team at the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management will work jointly with Shelby County officials to ensure there will be a coordinated response,"** added Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland.

During a crisis, commanders at the disaster scene would document dangers and give timely updates to the coordinating team at Shelby County's Emergency Operations Center. Additional information would be provided to news outlets and social media sites.

**"Tragedies enable us to pause and review our emergency plans, particularly those that involve large-scale evacuations. Our notification procedures for TV and cell phone messages are in place should people need to leave their homes and businesses because of fires, exposure to hazardous materials or other threats,"** said Dale Lane, Director of the Shelby County Office of Preparedness.

Memphis Fire Director Gina Sweat says citizens need plenty of warning during a crisis. **"Lieutenant Rick Keith and his team at the Memphis Mayor's Office of Emergency Management will immediately forward messages to the emergency notification system to give people as much time as possible to find a safe place."**

All smartphone users should make sure their devices can receive emergency notifications. Users should check the *"Settings"* feature to enable the alert tones and text messages.

**(End of Release)**