

Emergency Alert Reflections

by Diana Bollenbaugh

Saturday's (01/13/18) misstep with the emergency alert system was an eye-opener. Unlike the stories of many people, I did not call family or friends to tell them I loved them. I figured they would prefer that I focus on getting to safety rather than a phone call or text message.

I called them after the fact. I'm grateful I did. Only my sister knew about the incident and all she had heard about was the recall message.

While I was talking to various friends and family members, I was thinking it was a timely reminder about what to do in the event of an incident like this:

- 1) Have a standardized emergency plan for the public places you most frequent
 - Grocery stores
 - Department stores
 - Beaches / Parks
 - Libraries
 - Malls, etc.
- 2) Know the safety plan for your children's schools
 - It's most likely the safest place for them be, even though they are scared
- 3) Know the safety plan for your place of business
 - It's most likely the safest place for you to be, even though you want to get to your family
- 4) Focus on Survival & Safety
 - Get to a safe place, then do roll call with your family
 - If you can't get a hold of them, don't panic. The cell towers or phone lines may be overloaded with the number of people calling or texting.
- 5) Contact other friends and family members when safe