

E-Alert set for major test

by Kaitlin Ugolik, March 5, 2008

Many students received text messages via E-Alert about class delays when the surprise snowstorm hit on Feb. 14.

In an attempt to make the campus more aware of the alerts that students, faculty and staff members can receive when a storm is coming or when classes are delayed, the technology department will test the emergency system during College Coffee on March 18 at 10 a.m.

The university has developed an emergency response plan “based on a realistic assessment of potential hazards that could affect the campus” that can be found at <http://emergency.elon.edu>.

Specific responsibilities will be assigned to university departments and organizations in the event of an emergency.

There are also additional patrol personnel on call for emergency situations. For personal emergencies there are police escorts available 24 hours a day if a student, faculty or staff member feels threatened for any reason.

There is also an evening and weekend emergency on-call system for students and parents.

There is a detailed emergency response guide on the Web site, as well as the locations of all emergency call boxes on campus and campus evacuation sites, most of which are bathrooms and hallways.

In addition to text messages and e-mail, if an emergency occurs a system of sirens on campus will blast and then play a recorded voice message.

Elon Student Television, WSOE radio and the digital posters in Moseley will all stop regular programming and broadcast alerts.

“I still don’t think students are going to know what’s going on,” junior Addison Ottaway said. “I got the e-mail [about signing up for E-Alert] but I didn’t know enough about it to sign up.”

Mel Byerley, media services office manager and coordinator for the E-Alert College Coffee, said she hopes that the event will make students more aware and encourage them to sign up for the service.

Campus Security suggests that students create their own plan of action including steps for immediate protection and knowledge of where the closest call boxes and evacuation sites are.

For protection of valuables, engraving pens are available for check out from the Campus Security Office at no charge.