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DES Security Initiative: Department Implements Early Alert System to Ensure Workplace Safety

PHOENIX – In an effort to continue its aim of increasing security measures for its colleagues, the Department of Economic Security (DES) announced today the implementation of an alert system designed to send emergency messages to colleagues throughout the state. The NXT Communicator alert system will issue alerts via phone, email or text message to colleagues in local offices advising of any on-site emergency situations.

“The implementation of the NXT Communicator alert system is just another indicator of our ardent commitment to keep our colleagues safe,” said Director Tim Jeffries. “What was largely not reported about the San Bernardino massacre, for example, is that it occurred at a center for the developmentally disabled. If evildoers strike facilities that serve vulnerable individuals, there is no doubt, they will strike anywhere. We will do everything in our power to protect our colleagues from evildoers and their wretched ilk.”

“One of the most important priorities of Director Jeffries and the Executive Leadership Team is to improve colleague safety in the workplace,” said DES Director of Security Charles Loftus. “We must be ever-vigilant in pursuing multiple opportunities.”

Loftus was tasked with assembling the team whose primary focus was the quick dissemination of emergency information throughout the Department to improve workplace safety. The project was a collaboration between DES, the Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA) and the Department of Administration (ADOA).

The emergency message will have a distinct preface which will make it easily recognizable by DES colleagues. It will also be used in non-emergency situations, such as informing colleagues of office closures. The project is scheduled to be fully functional by the end of June.

The NXT COMMUNICATOR will not replace the use of a 911 call. In such situations, colleagues are still advised to contact local law enforcement.

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