

ISSUE

WASHINGTON (CNN) -- A program to create a nationwide alert system using cell phones and other mobile devices was approved Thursday by the Federal Communications Commission. The FCC said cell phone companies that voluntarily **opt** into the system would send text-based alert messages to **subscribers** in response to three types of events:

1. A disaster that could **jeopardize** the health and safety of Americans, such as a terrorist attack; these would **trigger** a national alert from the president of the United States.
2. **Imminent** or ongoing threats such as hurricanes, tornadoes or earthquakes
3. Child abductions or **Amber alerts**.



Vocabulary



Child Abduction



Tornado



Terrorist Attack

FCC APPROVES EMERGENCY ALERT TEXT-MESSAGING SYSTEM

Express Yourself

1. If this program will be approved in Japan, are you going to subscribe? Why / why not?
2. Cite 3 advantages and disadvantages of this program.
3. What do you think is the best way to lessen life-lost during such emergencies?
4. Japan is one of the countries most hit by earthquakes. What are the safety precautions your government and your people do in case there is one?
5. Cite other suggestions to lessen the number of victims and deaths during disaster.]
6. Some companies have seminars to educate the employees about the things to remember during disaster. How often should the company conduct such seminars? Yearly? Every after 2 years? Why?

