



Emergency Management  
Fax: (509) 628-2621

## BENTON COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES

651 Truman Avenue  
Richland, Washington 99352  
(509) 628-2600



Southeast Communications Center  
Fax: (509) 628-2622

October 1, 2009

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### Contact

Elizabeth Smith  
Public Information Officer  
(509) 539-0312 (Cell)

#### **SOUTHEAST COMMUNICATIONS CENTER RECEIVES FIRST NON EMERGENCY TEXT MESSAGE**

Richland WA: Benton County Emergency Services Southeast Communications Call Center (SECOMM) received our first text message on the non-emergency police response line on September 30, 2009 at 5:05 pm PST.

SECOMM was unable to respond to the text message. The “texter” received a text message back instructing the “texter” to please call (509)628-0333. Elizabeth Smith, Public Information Officer for BCES, spoke to the “texter” earlier today. The caller wishes to remain anonymous. Details regarding the contents of the text message are unavailable until further review from SECOMM staff. The “texter” was advised to dial the non-emergency line or call 9-1-1 in the future.

If you have an emergency, or you need to reach the non-emergency police response line you must make a voice call to (509)628-0333 or dial 9-1-1 and be ready to provide your location and type of emergency.

For more information on this subject, you are encouraged to contact Benton County Emergency Services.

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For further contact information please contact Elizabeth Smith at Benton County  
Emergency Services at (509) 539-0312 (Cell).