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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Audrain County 911 Dropping Nixle

The free emergency information service will soon begin charging its Public Safety users and that's something agencies just can't afford.

Effective April 4, 2011, Audrain County E-911 Joint Communications will stop using Nixle, and will use a combination of Facebook and Twitter to relay information to citizens.

The change comes as Nixle informed Public Safety agencies around the country of their intent to begin charging for the use of their services beginning April 29, 2011.

"When we started using Nixle the company promised that their service would always remain available to Public Safety agencies free of charge. With the announcement that Nixle will begin charging for its services and given the current economic climate we have decided that paying for Nixle is not fiscally responsible when there are only 255 subscribers in Audrain County," said 911 Director Chris Hardin.

Assistant 911 Director Dan Barnett said, "Because we have received such positive feedback from the citizens of Audrain County regarding the information we send out, we set out to find other cost effective ways to distribute the same information to the public. We have decided to post this information on our Facebook and Twitter accounts. Facebook and Twitter users can have our posts sent to their e-mail and cell phones by updating their account settings on Facebook and Twitter."

Messages posted to Facebook and Twitter will contain the same information that was distributed through Nixle.

Citizens who would like to receive information via text message are encouraged to "follow" @Audrain911 on Twitter. Those who are not currently Twitter users can send the text message "Follow Audrain911" to 40404 and they will be automatically subscribed. As with Nixle, standard text messaging rates do apply.

Citizens can also find Joint Communications on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/AudrainCountyE911>.