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Alert system could warn of impending disaster faster

5:20 AM, Jan. 6, 2014



Network of short-range **CASA radars measure severe weather**

forming in lower atmosphere – including wind and rainfall – over time. Advanced algorithm performs calculations to predict tornadoes or floods and produce “nowcasts” (weather condition for next 20-30 minutes).



Updates sent every minute
to forecasters and emergency managers



Emergency responders pinpoint people

who may be in harm’s way and issue targeted alerts (rather than warning a whole county).



Alerts issued to any GPS-enabled mobile phone
in an affected area using “geocasting.”



Emergency messages provide specific information
and context to help people prepare for the emergency.

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Written by **CSU staff, on behalf of Colorado State University**

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When flash floods or tornadoes strike, residents usually have minutes to respond. These fast-forming disasters often outpace the ability of local emergency responders to warn people who may be in harm’s way.

Colorado State University professor V. “Chandra” Chandrasekar is part of a project to develop an emergency communication system that spots tornadoes or floods earlier, “finds” people in affected areas, and texts them emergency information on their mobile phones.

The system will rely on radars that Chandra has developed to “nowcast” real-time weather conditions to forecasters ...

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