

Slippery Rock to Install Emergency Alert System

Last Update: 9:24 am

Slippery Rock will be the first public university to install Metis Secure alerting devices, state-of-the-art location based emergency notification systems, in all 15 of their academic buildings.

The devices will alert students and staff of an emergency with flashing lights, sirens, text and two-way communication with campus police.

"By simply pressing a button, they're immediately connected with the police department, and more importantly, the police department is immediately connected with them," says Rita Abent, Executive Director of SRU Public Relations.

"It may cut our call times down two, three, four minutes, and in a time of crisis, that's important," says Bob Downey, SRU Chief of Police and Director of Security.

The devices send signals using FM, wireless mesh and wired ethernet connections, so police will see exactly where the call is coming from, and respond with pinpoint accuracy in a matter of seconds. "The building, the floor, the hallway, the room, wherever the alert comes from, it'll tell us exactly where we need to go," says Chief Downey.

The Metis devices will complement the emergency call boxes, and any text or e-mail alerts already in place, to keep students and faculty safe. Abent says, "They may have their phone off, so they won't get the text alert, but they may see the flashing sign."

Metis Secure Solutions will start installing the emergency notification devices in classroom buildings later this semester and hope to have them all up and running by the end of this school year.

