



DCU BULLETIN

Division of Credit Unions

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Emergency Communication System (ECS) Invitation **In coordination with the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis**

Last year, the Washington State Department of Financial Institutions (DFI) and the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis sent an announcement inviting you to join the Emergency Communications System (ECS).

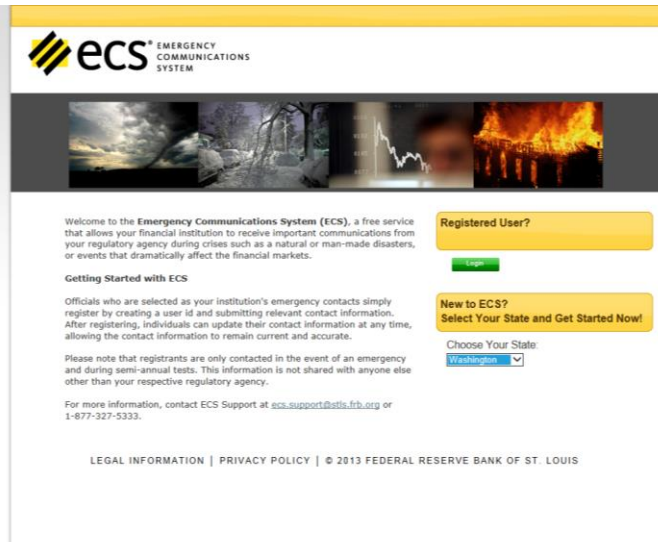
ECS is a free service provided by the Federal Reserve that will enable DFI to communicate with your financial institution in the event of a natural or man-made disaster, or events that dramatically affect the financial markets. The notification process is similar to the way school districts send mass communications. ECS will only be used to contact institutions during emergencies and semi-annual tests. All communications will be confidential.

We strongly encourage your registration and participation in this communication system. Attached are instructions for registering your credit union and a brochure which provide further detail.

Thank you for your efforts in preparing for unplanned events. Please do not hesitate to call the ECS Support Center at 877-327-5333 or Linda Jekel at 360-902-8778 if you have any questions.

Registering your institution is easy!

1. Identify the individual(s) at your institution who should be contacted during an emergency.
2. Have them to fill out the online registration form which is hosted by the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis at www.stlouisfed.org/ecs.



The screenshot shows the ECS registration page. At the top, there is a banner with the ECS logo and the text "EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM". Below the banner are four images: a storm, a person in a dark setting, a line graph, and a fire. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains a welcome message, a "Getting Started with ECS" section, and contact information. The right column has two yellow buttons: "Registered User?" with a "Login" button below it, and "New to ECS? Select Your State and Get Started Now!" with a "Choose Your State" dropdown menu below it. The footer contains "LEGAL INFORMATION | PRIVACY POLICY | © 2013 FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF ST. LOUIS".

*Registrants are *only* contacted in the event of an emergency and during semi-annual tests used to ensure your contact information is up-to-date. Please note that ECS is intended for regulatory use only and will not replace other emergency communication systems currently utilized by The Washington Department of Financial Institutions or the Federal Reserve System.

*If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the ECS Support Center at ecs.support@stls.frb.org or at 877-327-5333.

Register your institution with the Emergency Communications System (ECS) to receive important messages during a crisis event.

What is ECS?

The **Emergency Communications System (ECS)** is a tool used by state regulators and the Fed to communicate with financial institutions during emergency situations. The service allows these agencies to quickly contact impacted institutions and provide pertinent information in a timely manner. Here are a few examples that might necessitate the use of ECS:

- natural or man-made disasters including storms, hurricanes, tornados, floods or fires;
- chemical or biological events or threats, and
- events affecting the financial markets.

Why would I be interested?

ECS allows the state and the Fed to deliver key information directly to institutions when they might need it the most. Since this is a coordinated effort between regulators, ECS minimizes the number of interruptions an institution may receive during a crisis, allowing everyone involved to focus their attention on the most pressing needs. ECS is available to financial holding companies and financial institutions in the United States.

ECS is *only* used to contact institutions during real emergencies and during semi-annual tests conducted to ensure contact information is up-to-date. The contact information is not shared, nor will it be used for marketing purposes.

How does it work?

During an emergency, regulators (the state or the Fed) can send messages to registered contacts through either voice or e-mail messages. Through the use of polling questions, an institution's operational status can be obtained and shared with regulators throughout a crisis.

How do I register?

- 1) Identify the individuals who should be contacted during an emergency.
- 2) Ask them to complete the online registration form which is hosted by the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis at www.stlouisfed.org/ecs.

After registering, individuals can revisit the website to update their contact information at any time.

More information

Contact the **ECS Support Center** (877-327-5333, ecs.support@stls.frb.org).