Most days, Congress seems to work at the speed of a glacier. But even glaciers can suddenly drop icebergs.

Are you prepared for an iceberg from Congress?

Members of the e-Activist Network have received e-mail alerts on vital issues, like the current campaign to “Save Saturday Delivery,” since 2003. These alerts have generally been used when time is of the essence and regular mail can’t be used. Now e-Activists can get news even faster by signing up to receive text messages on their cell phones and other portable devices.

Say a vote is coming up in the House or the Senate about saving Saturday delivery. If you have added the text messaging option to your e-Activist account, the NALC will be able to reach you with notifications at the speed of cell, immediately asking you to contact your Washington representatives—as long as you’re off the clock and out of uniform, of course.

The power to save your Service could be resting in the palm of your hand.

Signing up for the text messaging option is just as simple as signing on to be an e-Activist. Simply go to the e-Activist web page at nalc.org/activist and enter your cellular telephone number in the proper field. If you’re already signed up as an e-mail e-Activist, there is no need to create a new account—you can simply click the link to update your contact information by adding your cell phone number to it.

Once we have that information, the NALC can send you text messages containing urgent notifications. We won’t charge you for this service, but your cell phone service provider might. And we won’t bombard you with text messages—you should receive texts at no greater frequency than you already do for e-Activist e-mail alerts.

The new text message service is part of the upgrade to a new alert system provided by “Wired for Change” (see the July 2010 Postal Record). On July 1, we officially launched the new network software and sent a message to all those e-Activist e-mail addresses that were marked as working and valid, announcing that the NALC has begun using the new service. However, we realize some network members might have forgotten to update their e-mail addresses, or technical glitches may have thrown some addresses off the list. That’s why we sent the test message.

If you received the July 1 message, you’re still a member. If you didn’t, we need your help. Simply go to nalc.org/activist and sign up with your current e-mail address. It’s that easy.

Even if you are a current e-Activist with a working e-mail address in the system, this would be a good time to sign up for cell phone text message alerts, too.

The legislative activists are one of this union’s greatest strengths. It’s only when we’ve acted in concert that we’ve been able to enjoy success. And now, the power of both e-mail and text messaging will help all our e-Activists become a virtually unstoppable force in the protection of our jobs, our benefits and the letter carrier way of life.