

OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS

Outdoor Warning Sirens, sometimes referred to as Tornado Sirens, can be an invaluable in warning citizens who are outdoors about impending danger.

In Clinton County there are several cities on one siren system, and several cities who independently operate their own Sirens. Currently the cities of Clinton, Camanche, Folletts, Elvira and Low Moor are part of a siren system located within the 10 Mile Emergency Planning Zone or EPZ, for the Cordova Nuclear Plant. Although the city of DeWitt is not within the EPZ, they are also on this system as well. All of the sirens in these cities work on the same system, and can be sounded together. All other sirens within Clinton County are operated by the individual community themselves. Depending on which of the other cities you are in outside of the EPZ system, there may be additional reasons and procedures for when sirens are set off.

Question and Answers about Outdoor Warning Sirens

1. *What is the difference between a “Tornado Siren” and an “Outdoor Warning Siren”?*

An Outdoor Warning Siren is the correct name for what people sometimes call a Tornado Siren. An Outdoor Warning Siren can warn community members about more than just tornados, and can also be referred to as an All Hazard Warning Siren.

2. *Why can't I hear the siren in my house?*

One of the most common misconceptions about Outdoor Warning Sirens is where individuals should be able to hear the sirens sound. Outdoor Warning Sirens are just that, an outdoor warning siren, and are not designed to be heard inside. Although some people may be able to hear them inside, most people cannot.

3. *What am I supposed to do when I hear a siren?*

When you hear a siren, take cover immediately in your basement, a small room such as an interior bathroom or hall closet. Go under a large sturdy piece of furniture such as a workbench if it is available, and cover your head. If you are in a large building go to the most interior portion of the building. Close all doors and stay away from exterior windows and doors. Monitor the radio or television if possible. However, you may not have time. Do not call 9-1-1 for information. Only call 9-1-1 if you have a life-threatening emergency. Sirens are not always used to warn citizens of approaching tornados, but that is what they are used for most often. That is why it is important to not only take cover, but to try and turn on a radio or TV for more information.

4. *When are the sirens tested?*

In the cities of Clinton, Camanche, Folletts, Low Moor, Elvira and DeWitt, the outdoor warning sirens are tested the 1st Tuesday of every month at 10 a.m.

5. *The sirens are going off, it isn't the 1st Tuesday of the month, but it's a beautiful day, do I still need to go inside?*

Yes, anytime you hear the sirens go off and it is not the a scheduled testing time you should go inside immediately. As stated earlier Outdoor Warning Sirens are *most often* used to warn of tornados, but they are also used for other things as well. Outdoor Warning Sirens are an All-Hazard warning system. If you are hearing the siren go off and it isn't because of a tornado it may be because of the following issues:

- ❖ A hazardous material spill
- ❖ A radiological release from the Nuclear Power Plant
- ❖ A levee failure.

6. *Should I call 9-1-1 when I hear a siren going off?*

No. Unless you have a life threatening emergency you should not call 9-1-1.

7. *Besides hearing a siren when I am outside, how else can I be alerted about dangerous conditions in my area?*

We strongly urge you to purchase a tone-alert, AC-DC weather radio – a radio that is designed to receive broadcasts from the local National Weather Service office. This is the best source of “Indoor Warning” you can have. Once you get a weather radio, you can program it to alert you of any watches or warnings in your area.