

OUTDOOR WEATHER WARNING SIREN SYSTEM

PURPOSE

The purpose of the City of Hermitage Outdoor Weather Warning Siren System is to alert the general public of the existence of, or potential existence of a tornado situation approaching the City of Hermitage. The main objective of the sirens is to alert those individuals who are outdoors and away from the other established means of notification, such as commercial television and radio, weather alert radios, and so forth. These sirens are not designed to be heard inside a structure. In order to make the Outdoor Weather Warning Siren System efficient and effective, a consistent method of operation is paramount.

The Outdoor Weather Warning Siren System will not be activated for any other weather related incidents.

The only time the Weather Sirens will activate is when the National Weather Service has issued a TORNADO WARNING. This ensures reliable TORNADO WARNING and reduces confusion among the general public. The residents and visiting public of the City of Hermitage should understand that activation of the siren system means "TAKE SHELTER NOW AND TUNE TO NOAA WEATHER RADIO OR LOCAL MEDIA FOR INFORMATION!"

The Outdoor Weather Warning Siren System activation cycle is as followed: the sirens will activate for 1 minute, rest for 1 minute, activate for 1 minute, rest for 1 minute, and then activate for 1 minute. The total cycle time is 5 minutes. During a Tornado Warning, the sirens cycles might be activated several times during the weather emergency. **THERE ARE NO "ALL-CLEAR" ACTIVATION TONES OR SIRENS.** You will need to tune into a local media source to see if the weather emergency has passed.

MAINTENANCE TESTING

The Outdoor Weather Warning Siren System is tested on a monthly basis. The test is conducted on the first Thursday of each month at approximately 10 a.m. Certain condition such as, dark overcast skies, thunderstorms predicted for the area or a current emergency incident that the fire department is responding to, will cause the test to be cancelled. If the sirens are not tested on the regular monthly test date, there will be no make-up test for that month.

SIREN OWNERSHIP

Sirens are owned and maintained by the City of Hermitage. The Fire Marshal's Office has been tasked with this duty of maintaining the system. Any questions can be referred to the Fire Marshal's Office.

SIREN LOCATIONS

Currently there are six outdoor weather warning sirens located throughout the City of Hermitage. The locations are: Hermitage Fire Station #1, Hermitage Fire Station #3, Patagonia Fire Station #2, behind Joy Cone on North Keel Ridge Road, Hermitage Street Department, and on Christy Road.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HEAR THE SIRENS ACTIVATING AND IT'S NOT A TEST?

Move indoors and seek shelter IMMEDIATELY. Tune into a local media source to find out additional information on the approaching weather emergency.

SAFEST PLACES TO BE DURING A TORNADO

If a tornado has been spotted or indicated by weather radar, you need to seek shelter immediately. Of course, the safest place to be when a tornado approaches is in a basement or storm shelter underground. But if you are not able to get to a shelter or basement, you need to find shelter that is available.

If you are at home

- If you have a cellar, storm shelter, safe room or basement available, go immediately to that area. If none of these options are available to you, get to the lowest level of your home.
- Get to a windowless interior room, such as a bathroom, closet or inner hallway
- Stay as far from windows as possible
- Go to the center of the room – corners tend to attract debris
- Get under a sturdy piece of furniture; heavy table or desk, and hold on to it
- Protect your head and neck with a blanket, if possible

If you are in a mobile home

Mobile homes are particularly vulnerable to tornadoes. They can be easily overturned, even if precautions have been taken to tie down the unit. If you are in a mobile home when a tornado is approaching, evacuate the home immediately.

- Take shelter in a building with a strong foundation
- If a shelter is not available, lie in a ditch or low-lying area a safe distance away from the mobile home.
- Use your arms to protect head and neck

If you are at work or school

- Go to the basement or an inside hallway at the lowest level
- Avoid places with wide-span roofs such as auditoriums, cafeterias, gymnasiums, large hallways or shopping malls
- Get under a sturdy piece of furniture such as a desk or heavy table.
- Use your arms to protect head and neck

If you are outdoors

- If possible, get inside a building.
- If shelter is unavailable or there is no time to get indoors, lie in a ditch or low-lying area or crouch near a strong building.
- Use your arms to protect your head and neck
- Stay alert to the potential for flooding

If you are in a vehicle

Never try to outrun a tornado. Tornadoes can change direction quickly and can instantly lift up a car, truck or any other vehicle and toss it through the air.

- Get out of the vehicle immediately and take shelter in a nearby building
- If there is no time to get indoors, get out of the vehicle and lie in a ditch or low-lying area away from the vehicle
- Use your arms to protect your head and neck
- Stay alert to the potential for flooding