



OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS

Outdoor warning sirens are designed to alert people who are outdoors to take cover and seek additional information immediately during emergencies

WHEN YOU HEAR THE SIREN:

- Go indoors immediately
- Seek shelter and tune in to local news, radio, or a weather app
- **Do not** call 911 unless you have an emergency

Other Emergency Alerts

Use these too:

- NOAA Weather Radio
- Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)
- Local news apps or text alerts

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OUTDOOR WARNING SIREN Q&A

CAN I HEAR THE SIREN INDOORS?

Not always. Sirens are designed to alert people who are outdoors. You should have multiple ways to receive alerts.

WHEN ARE SIRENS TESTED?

Jurisdictions test on different schedules so be sure to check your local emergency management website for the exact date and time.

WHAT SHOULD I DO AFTER HEARING THE SIREN?

Take shelter, stay calm, and get more info from trusted sources like the National Weather Service or your local emergency management office.

WILL THE SIRENS SOUND FOR ALL SEVERE WEATHER?

Yes, sirens are typically sounded for tornado warnings, but in some areas, they may also be activated for severe thunderstorm warnings or hazardous conditions. Additionally, during large special events, sirens may be sounded at lower thresholds to ensure public safety.

HOW LONG WILL THE SIREN SOUND?

The steady tone for an alert usually lasts around 3 minutes, but this can vary depending on local policies — some areas may use 1.5 minutes, others up to 5. If you hear the tone again after the initial alert, it may indicate a new warning has been issued.

IS THERE AN "ALL CLEAR" SIREN?

Many communities do not sound an "all clear." Instead, tune in to official sources for updates and guidance.

CAN I REPORT A SIREN THAT DIDN'T WORK?

Yes. Contact your local emergency management office with the time and location so it can be inspected.

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