



McMullen County Emergency Management



Understanding Outdoor Warning Sirens: What You Need to Know

For when severe weather approaches, McMullen County Emergency Management wants to remind residents about the purpose of outdoor warning sirens and how to respond when they are activated.

Outdoor warning sirens are designed to alert people who are outdoors of imminent danger, such as tornadoes, extreme winds, or other life-threatening emergencies. These sirens serve as an early warning system, giving people the opportunity to seek shelter and stay informed through official emergency channels.

What Do the Sirens Mean?

Outdoor warning sirens typically use two distinct tones to communicate different types of emergencies:

- **Steady Tone (Alert Signal):** A long, steady wail lasting several minutes indicates a life-threatening emergency, such as a tornado or extreme wind event. When you hear this tone, immediately seek shelter and check for official emergency updates.
- **Wavering Tone (Attack Signal):** Is used for flooding or high-water threat. When you hear this tone. Move to higher ground away from water sources.

How to Respond to a Siren Activation During a Tornado

- **Seek Shelter Immediately:** Move to a safe location, such as a basement, storm shelter, or an interior room on the lowest floor of a sturdy building.
- **Stay Informed:** Tune in to local weather radio, TV, or emergency apps for updates and instructions.
- **Know the Testing Schedule:** In many areas, sirens are tested regularly (**Ours is the first Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m.**). These tests confirm that the system is working and are not an indication of an emergency.

What Outdoor Sirens Are NOT For:

- Sirens are not intended to be heard indoors, residents should use NOAA weather radios, mobile alerts, and other notification systems for indoor warnings.
- Sirens do not signal an "all-clear". Once activated, people should continue monitoring local emergency updates for further instructions.

In addition to understanding sirens, residents are encouraged to have multiple ways to receive emergency alerts, including weather apps, NOAA weather radios, having a family emergency plan and knowing where to go during severe weather can save lives.

What are outdoor warning sirens, and what do they mean?

Outdoor warning sirens are part of McMullen County's emergency alert system. They are used to warn residents of imminent threats such as tornadoes or other life-threatening situations. The sirens indicate a need to seek shelter and check emergency information sources such as TV, radio, or mobile alerts.

Outdoor warning sirens are typically activated under the following conditions:

- A tornado warning is issued for McMullen County by the National Weather Service.
- A trained weather spotter confirms a tornado or funnel cloud.
- Other life-threatening emergencies that require mass public notification.
- **Monthly siren testing on the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 AM (weather permitting).**

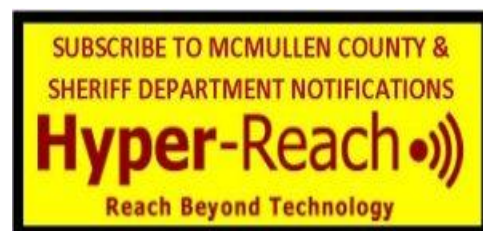
Why don't the sirens sound an "all-clear" signal?

An "all-clear" is not issued by sirens to avoid confusion. Residents should monitor official news sources to determine when the threat has passed.

Can I hear the sirens inside my home?

Outdoor warning sirens are designed to alert people outdoors. Indoor alerts should come from NOAA Weather Radios, mobile alerts, or emergency broadcast messages via the McMullen County free app or Hyper Reach notification.

SCAN to download!



https://signup.hyper-reach.com/hyper_reach/sign_up_page_2/?id=96642