

Re: Outdoor tornado warning siren activation policy

The City of Smithville is pleased to announce the completion of the installation of the eleven outdoor tornado warning sirens. The Chief would like to ensure that all residents understand the policy for initiating the City of Smithville's Outdoor Tornado Warning system. It is important to remember that when you hear the outdoor sirens you immediately tune to a local television or radio station for further news and instructions.

The following procedures have been established for the activation of the outdoor tornado warning system. Please be aware of the following:

- The warning system is in place to warn residents of tornados. The system will be activated upon notification from the National Weather Service (NWS) that our area is under a tornado warning or the actual sighting of a tornado by law enforcement, fire service, or trained weather spotter.
- The outdoor tornado warning system is designed only to inform those who are outside in the open areas, where a tornado warning has been issued for the area.
- The system is not activated for thunderstorms, other severe weather conditions.
- In the event that a previously issued tornado warning expires, and the NWS issues a new tornado warning for the area, the warning system will be activated again in response to the new warning.
- The tornado warning sirens will not be activated to signal an "all clear"

Siren Testing Information

The City of Smithville tornado warning system will be tested on the first Wednesday of each month at 12:00 p.m. and will run for one and a half minutes. The tests will not be done if there are stormy conditions in the area or conditions look favorable for stormy weather.

It is important to remember that the sirens are NOT in place to be heard indoors. Every home should have a NOAA Weather Radio to ensure adequate notification of a pending tornado.