

What Do The Siren Tones Indicate, and What Should I Do When I Hear Them?

Severe Weather Warning

1. WHOOP TONE - (An on/off whoop sound for thirty seconds). This tone indicates that the City of Washington has been placed under a severe weather warning by the National Weather Service, or by a qualified weather spotter. A warning indicates that severe weather is imminent. Take cover immediately, and remain there until the local radio station has broadcast an all clear.

Tornado Warning

2. ALERT TONE - (A steady tone for three minutes). This tone indicates a tornado has been detected by the National Weather Service radar, or a qualified weather spotter in the immediate area (defined as towns surrounding Washington). Take cover immediately, and remain there until the local radio station has broadcast an all clear.

The City of Washington does not sound the siren system for WATCHES. A watch indicates that conditions are favorable for severe weather or tornadoes to develop.

Be observant, and tune in to local radio stations or television to keep abreast of changes in the weather. Be ready to take appropriate protective actions should the weather become more severe.

Civil Defense Warning

3. ATTACK TONE - (A wavering tone for 3 minutes). This tone indicates an attack against the United States has been detected. Tune in to local radio or television stations for further instructions.

WARNING

What type of Warning System is there for people who are inside a large building, or a building with a large noise level, and cannot hear the outdoor Warning System?

The National Weather Service continuously broadcasts updated weather warnings and forecasts that can be received by NOAA weather radios sold in many stores. The average range is 40 miles depending on topography. It is recommended that you purchase a radio that has both a battery backup and a tone-alert feature which automatically alerts you when a watch or warning is issued.

Please share this information with the entire family. The outdoor warning system has been provided for YOUR protection. **THE BENEFITS YOU RECEIVE FROM THIS SYSTEM ARE DIRECTLY PROPORTIONATE TO YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF HOW IT WORKS AND YOUR LEVEL OF PREPAREDNESS.**

Exactly how does the outdoor emergency Warning System work?

The siren system has two main modes of operation.

1. Tones utilized by the City of Washington are listed above.

2. The Westminster chime is actually a prerecorded voice message; however, this is used as a system integrity check. On or about noon on every Sunday, the Westminster chime will be activated to insure the siren system is functioning properly.

Where are they located?

The City of Washington currently has five siren locations. They are; 5th /High St; 8th/Hwy 47; Steutermann Rd/Martina Dr.; International Ave/Hwy 100; Industrial Park/ W Main St; South Point Rd near Stone Crest Subdivision (Summer 2003); Industrial Park/Enduro Dr (Summer 2003)

It is our hope that this brochure will answer your questions about how the Emergency Warning System works and its purpose. We strongly encourage you to keep this brochure readily available for reference and inclusion in your family disaster plan. Should you have any questions regarding the Siren System Weather Spotters program, please feel free to contact the City of Washington at 390-1053 or visit our website at ci.washington.mo.us.

What would you do?