STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

South Central Region

All Hazard Outdoor Warning Siren Activation Guide

The activation of the alert tone on the All Hazard Outdoor Warning Siren for the public shall constitute an emergency situation for the respective Village, Town, or City, and residents need to seek shelter and tune into the local media to gather further information on the emergency, as danger exists beyond a reasonable doubt to human life from weather related hazard or a Hazardous Material incident.

The following Criteria shall be the basis for siren activation:

1) Any time a community is included in a National Weather Service (NWS) issued Tornado Warning polygon, the Siren will be sounded in that community.

2) A NWS radar signature of strong, persistent rotation, preferably confirmed by a trained spotter, or a trained spotter report of a tornado, funnel cloud or potentially life-threatening weather event within 10 miles of an affected community and in the path of the event.)

3) Straight line winds in excess of 80 mph, often indicative of damaging straight-line winds associated with a Severe Thunderstorm.

4) Potentially life threatening or damaging hail of 2.75” in diameter or larger (i.e. tennis ball size or larger).

5) All Hazard Outdoor Warning Sirens within the affected communities should be activated upon NWS WEA activations of a Severe Weather WEA activation.

   a. Flash flood with the Threat Tag “Considerable” or “Catastrophic”
   b. Polygon-based Dust Storm Warning
   c. Severe Thunderstorm Warning with the Threat Tag “Destructive”

6) Or a large-scale Hazardous Materials Spill that could harm the general public if action is not taken.

THE ACTIVATION OF THE OUTDOOR ALL HAZARDS WARNING SIREN SHALL MEAN THAT CITIZENS SHOULD MOVE TO A PLACE OF SAFETY. DETAILED INFORMATION SHALL BE GIVEN TO LOCAL MEDIA AS TO SPECIFIC ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY THE PUBLIC AND THAT THE SIRENS SHALL NOT BE USED TO ISSUE AN ALL CLEAR SIGNAL.