

When You Hear the Outdoor Warning Sirens...

1. Seek safe shelter inside a building, preferably in the basement or lowest level and away from glass, unanchored items or insufficiently supported objects.
2. Turn on local media and monitor your weather radio.
3. If a tornado is imminent, crawl under a table, mattress or other item that may offer additional protection.
4. If at home, follow your prepared emergency plan and keep your emergency kit stocked and within reach. See www.ready.gov for instructions for assembling an emergency kit.
5. If at work or school, follow the established procedure and be attentive to changes in forecast information.

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Douglas County EMA
Civic Center EOC
1819 Farnam St.
Omaha, NE 68183



Purpose and Function of Outdoor Warning Sirens

Many communities have installed outdoor warning siren systems to provide an additional warning of impending danger from threatening weather. As their name implies, sirens are manufactured and installed so that they can be heard when people are out-of-doors when threatening weather is approaching.



The American Signal Tempest is a common pole-mounted siren used in Douglas County. Each siren rotates 360° and provides a 3-minute tone.

There are over 100 outdoor warning sirens installed and operating in Douglas County. Although the sirens have an overall effective radius of approximately one mile, residents should note that the perceived volume of the siren will vary with the geographic terrain, level of ambient noise, existing wind conditions and the listener's ability to hear the siren.

Siren Testing

Douglas County tests its sirens at 11:00 on the first Wednesday of every month during tornado season. Local media will be notified to make public announcements reminding the community of the tests. To avoid confusion, the regularly scheduled test will be delayed two hours if severe weather is threatening. Siren performance and failures are monitored electronically by the Douglas County Emergency Management Agency and any detected problems repaired.



Siren Activation

In addition to testing, there are 3 circumstances under which Douglas County's sirens will be activated.

1. When the National Weather Service initiates a Tornado Warning for any portion of Douglas County.
2. When a public safety official or trained storm-spotter witnesses an active funnel cloud or tornado within Douglas County.
3. When Douglas County 911 receives credible reports of damage or imminent threat of hurricane-force sustained winds equal to or exceeding 74 m.p.h.

If you are outside when the sirens sound, seek shelter immediately and monitor radio, TV or a NOAA All-Hazard Weather Radio to be informed of the impending weather

Be Prepared

During severe weather season, you can be prepared for severe weather by simply listening to the local weather forecast before you leave home and plan accordingly. It is recommended that every home, school and business be equipped with a NOAA All-Hazard Weather Radio. Unlike most plug-in devices, weather radios have back-up battery power which allows them to function during power outages. In addition to weather forecast information from local radio and television stations, local weather forecasts are available from a number of internet sites including the National Weather Service at www.nws.noaa.gov.



**Douglas County
Emergency Management Agency**

**Civic Center EOC
1819 Farnam Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68183**

**www.douglascounty-ne.gov/county/DCEMA
E-mail: DCEMAinfo@douglascounty-ne.gov**

Agency Contact: 402-444-5040