OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS

If the sirens are sounding now, go inside, take shelter and if possible turn on a weather radio, radio or TV to find out why the sirens have been activated. DO NOT call 911 for more information. Only use 911 for emergencies.

Outdoor Warning Sirens, sometimes referred to as Tornado Sirens, can be invaluable in warning citizens who are outdoors about impending danger.

The majority of the time, the sirens within Fort Atkinson will be active for three reasons, Tornado Warnings, the monthly siren test and daily Monday through Saturday at noon.

General Siren Information

- What does it mean when a siren is activated?
    - The sirens sound when it is not safe to be outside. When you hear the siren go off, go inside, take shelter, and if possible, turn on a radio or TV for more information.
- Why can't I hear the siren in my house?
    - Sirens are designed to be outdoor warning systems. Many individuals can hear sirens in their homes, but that is not their intended purpose. Sirens are only one part of the warning systems used to alert citizens. Weather radios, which are better suited to indoor warning, are also part of the warning systems used to alert citizens. Most weather radios have the capability to alert citizens inside their homes about dangerous situations through an alarm function.
- When are the sirens tested?
    - The outdoor warning sirens are tested on the 1st Wednesday of every month at 12:05 p.m.
    - The siren located at City Hall is also tested daily Monday through Saturday at 12:00pm commonly called the "Noon Whistle".
- Is there an "All Clear" signal?
    - There is no all clear sounding for the siren system. If the sirens are activated again it is generally because of a new threat or a warning has expired and a new warning has been issued. When the sirens sound for a second time, it does not mean it is safe to come out of shelter areas.

How does the city determine when to set off the sirens?

1. When a Tornado Warning has been issued for Jefferson County or Fort Atkinson Area by the National Weather Service.

2. When a trained spotter or Public Safety Officer (Police, Fire, EMS, JCEC) reports the sighting of a funnel cloud or a tornado is reported on the ground in Jefferson Co or near Fort Atkinson.

3. When directed to activate the sirens by the Chief of Police or his designee.

What to do when the sirens are activated

• What should we do when the sirens are activated?

- Take shelter and if possible listen to your weather radio, TV or radio for more information.
- DON'T CALL 911! The Dispatch Center is already busy working to ensure your safety. Don't distract them from that duty.

• How can I tell the sirens have been activated for a tornado warning?

- Each citizen needs to take some responsibility for his or her own safety and find out why the sirens have sounded. Once again, the sirens are an outdoor warning system. Hearing the sirens just means it is not safe to be outside and individuals should go inside, take shelter and find out what is going on. The use of a weather radio, radio, television, or the internet can help you understand what weather emergency is occurring.
- During emergencies residents will hear a <u>3 minute steady signal</u> of the outdoor warning sirens. When you hear the sirens and are unsure why they are sounding, go indoors and tune your radio to one of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) Stations, and listen for essential emergency information

How should I take cover?

- To "take cover" means to go inside immediately. The sirens sound when it is not safe to be outside. Make sure that everyone in your family knows the safest place to be in your home during an emergency.
- During a severe weather emergency a basement or another underground shelter is the safest place to be. If you do not have a basement, stay on the first floor and put as many walls between yourself and the outdoors as possible. No matter where you are sheltering, always try to shelter under a heavy piece of furniture.
- If you live in a mobile home, it is extremely important to identify the closest safe place to take cover and shelter before an event. If your mobile home park does not have a storm shelter, consider speaking with the owner or manager about building or creating one. During severe weather, mobile homes are never a safe place to shelter, even if they are anchored to a foundation.