

## Outdoor Warning Sirens FAQ

### 1. Are outdoor warning sirens my only way of receiving information?

No, there are multiple ways to receive severe weather and emergency notifications, especially tornado warnings. Those methods include:

- \* Cowley Alerts notification system (<http://www.cowleycounty.org/alerts>)
- \* NOAA Weather Radios
- \* Internet
- \* Cell phone apps
- \* Local media outlets (TV and radio)
- \* Outdoor warning sirens

### 2. When are the sirens activated?

For specific information on this, click on the Siren Activation Guide in the Outdoor Warning Sirens section of this website.

### 3. What actions should I take when I hear the outdoor warning sirens?

If it is not during a regular testing time period, seek shelter immediately! Tune in to a local media outlet for more information. Stay away from all windows and doors and remain in a safe place until the storm has passed. It is important to remember that any thunderstorm can produce a tornado with little or no warning.

### 4. Is there an "all clear" signal?

No. If the sirens are activated again, it is to warn you that a new threat has entered your area or the initial threat is still present.

### 5. I can hear the siren during testing days, but I did not hear it during the actual emergency. Is there something wrong with the siren?

No. During testing days, conditions are calm and often times windows are open and you may be outside in your yard. During a severe storm, you should be inside with windows and doors shut. Furthermore, the TV or radio may be on and rain and/or hail may be hitting your house. All of those factors make it more difficult to hear the siren. Remember, these are outdoor warning sirens and meant to be heard when you are outdoors and may not be heard while inside buildings or homes.

### 6. I heard there was a tornado in my area, but the sirens never went off. Why?

If a storm produces a tornado that is not an imminent threat to life safety in a specific area, sirens will not be sounded. In other words, if the tornado appears outside of your community and the storm system is moving away from your community, sirens will not be activated. We do not want to over warn citizens and every attempt is made to only activate the sirens when a threat affects your area.

