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2015 Siren Policy Changes *75% Reduction in Activations*

In 2012 the Mendota Heights Police and Fire dealt with a FEMA storm in the spring and a rare late season tornado. In 2014 Police, Fire and Public Works were called into action for more severe weather!

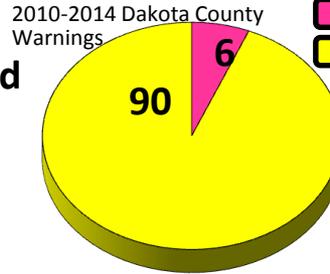
To prepare for 2015, the City will participate in a STATE WIDE TORNADO DRILL!!

April 16th, 2015, Tornado Drill at 1:30 and 6:55 p.m. - All Mendota Heights OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS WILL BE ACTIVATED!



Outdoor Siren Policy

Sirens sounded **96 times** over the past **5 years**



Tornado
Severe
e

Findings from Past Events



Joplin Missouri Service Assessment
1000+ injuries, 158 fatalities

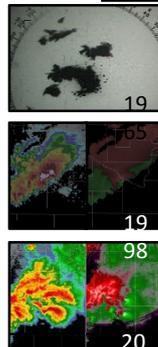
"The perceived frequency of siren activation in Joplin led the majority of survey participants to become desensitized or complacent to this method of warning."

Mother's Day Weekend Tornadoes Service Assessment

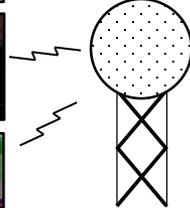
"EMs used the terms "watch fatigue," "warning fatigue," and "siren fatigue." The reference to fatigue indicated that the NWS issued many watches or warnings during which no significant weather occurred."



National Weather Service Improvements

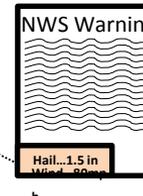


Significant radar upgrades revolutionized severe weather forecasting

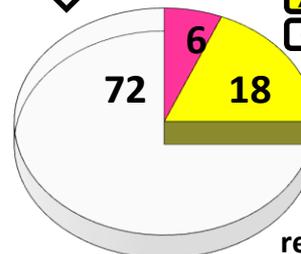


Hail...1.5 in
Wind...80mph

Hazard tags for siren policy



Tornado
70+ mph
General



75% reduction

Recommendation

Use sirens for **70+mph** and **tornado warnings**

Frequently asked Questions:

Q. What should you do when you hear a tornado siren?

A. Head inside, turn on the TV, Radio or Computer to find out why the siren went off.

Q. Why bother, they go off all the time?

A. The sirens are designed to get you inside, checking for more information.

Q. When do the sirens go off?

A. Most commonly when the National Weather Service (NWS) issues a Severe Thunderstorm Warning (70+ mph winds) or a Tornado Warning.

Q. How do I know when it is safe to go outside?

A. The sirens never sound an all clear. Check the news to make sure it is safe.

Q. Who can sound the sirens for Mendota Heights, Mendota and Lilydale?

A. A trained police officer, firefighter or the National Weather Service.

Q. Can an “Outdoor Warning Siren” sound off for something other than severe weather?

A. Yes it can be used for: local life-threatening events such as nuclear, hazmat and incidents of terrorism.

Q. What can I do to prepare for storm season?

A. Make a plan, build a kit: <http://www.ready.gov/>

More Information available at:

- <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/weather-awareness-preparedness/Pages/severe-weather-awareness-week-program.aspx>
- <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem/weather-awareness-preparedness/Pages/severe-weather-lightning-hail-storms.aspx>