

## Outdoor Warning Siren Activation Quick Reference Guide

### Activation Conditions:

Siren activation recommend for:

- 1) **Tornado Warning**
  - a. Issued by the National Weather Service
  - b. Tornado or funnel cloud reported by a trained spotter (law enforcement, fire department official, emergency management agency)
- 2) **Severe Thunderstorms**
  - a. Issued by the National Weather Service
  - b. Winds 70 mph or greater forecast or occurring

### Activation Duration:

When activated, the tone should be sounded for 3-5 minutes

Re-sounding every 10-15 for the duration of the threat (warning period).

### All Clear:

There will NOT be an “all clear” signal from the outdoor warning sirens.

### Testing:

Outdoor warning sirens will be tested on the first Saturday of each month at 12:00 p.m. (noon). A “growl” test may be conducted on the third Saturday of each month at 12:00 p.m. A “growl” test is a system activation without the full audible alert being activated.

If a severe weather watch or warning is in effect for Polk County area prior to 12:00 p.m. on a scheduled test day, the sirens should not be tested that day. Outdoor warning siren tests will resume on the next scheduled monthly date.

Testing may be considered optional during the months of December through February if ice or cold temperatures could damage the system. Testing should be done whenever conditions allow.

If testing is required outside of the normal monthly testing schedule, Polk County Emergency Management Agency shall be notified to contact the media in order to reduce the number of concerned callers to the PSAP.

### Related Documents:

For additional supporting information, please refer to:

- 1) Outdoor Warning Siren Activation Guidelines
- 2) Outdoor Warning Siren Activation Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)