

Carter COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

APPENDIX 2 TO SUPPORT ANNEX #1.1: WARNING DEVICE POLICY

TESTING:

Weekly Storm Siren tests of County owned sirens, will be on the Fridays of each week at 12:00 pm. This testing is for one minute and is NOT conducted when threatening weather is in the area. Should a scheduled test not occur, it will be skipped until the next test date.

Although the county operates sirens in close proximity to some towns/cities, the county's test may not coincide with that jurisdiction's testing policy. Meaning; the jurisdiction may test theirs at noon each Friday (or monthly).

The county does not have primary responsibility for the testing of an individual jurisdiction's sirens, but does maintain a backup means of sounding those sirens in the event of an issue preventing the jurisdiction from doing so. The County may test a jurisdiction's sirens on the County's testing day at the request of the jurisdiction. Jurisdictions for which Carter County has back-up abilities for include; Dickson, Healdton, and Springer. At the current time, Carter County does not have the ability to back-up the following jurisdictions; Ardmore, Lone Grove, and Wilson.

Reason for not testing sirens on the specified test date may include any of the following reasons:

1. Overcast Skies.
2. Severe Weather Watch is in effect for the county.
3. An ongoing emergency exists and the test may cause alarm.
4. Test date is a holiday.
5. Temperatures are well below 32 degrees.
6. EM Director deems it inappropriate.

ACTIVATION:

Carter County Emergency Management reminds citizens that the siren warning is an alert for people who are outside, and they are not designed to be heard indoors. The sirens provide a warning for anyone who is out of doors to go indoors and take shelter and seek information from additional sources. People indoors cannot always expect to hear the outdoor warning sirens. We encourage residents to utilize a NOAA Weather Radio that provides a warning signal when the area is under a watch or a warning. The advantage of having a weather radio is that you hear the alerts directly from the National Weather Service, and are kept current of the warning status. Weather radios are available at local or online retailers and are priced at approximately \$40-\$50. We also encourage citizens to watch their local television channels or listen to their local radio channels for updates and information about specific locations of storms.

Outdoor warning sirens are activated when the National Weather Service issues a tornado warning for Carter County or when receiving a report from a trained spotter of a tornado sighted in Carter County.

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When activated due to Tornado Warnings, the siren consists of a steady tone (siren head rotates) for duration of three minutes. Sirens may activate multiple times IF subsequent warnings are issued by the National Weather Service. The additional activations will be another three-minute sounding. All siren activations during Tornado Warnings are polygon based, meaning only sirens located in the warning polygon will be sounded. Those sirens located outside the polygon will not.

County sirens may also be sounded for other hazards which would require an immediate response from the general public to seek shelter (ie. Hazmat incident or other similar type incident).

The County reminds residents that there will be **NO** “ALL CLEAR” sounded by the sirens. Each additional sounding of siren/s means a new warning has been issued. Continue to monitor local television/radio, weather radio and trusted internet sources for further information.

Name _____

District 1 Commissioner

Name _____

District 2 Commissioner

Name _____

District 3 Commissioner

Name _____

Emergency Management Director

Name _____

Date _____

County Clerk