



# DELAWARE COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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*Coordinating community resources to mitigate, prepare, respond and recover from Emergencies and Disasters*

June 9, 2011

## **Authority to Activate Warning "Tornado" Sirens**

- National Weather Service Tornado Warning Issued
- Emergency Services Administrator Request
- Local Jurisdiction Public Safety Officer Request
- Report from a reliably trained and vetted storm spotter
- Substantiated reports of a tornado by the public to 911

## **Cause to Activate Sirens after initial warning is given**

- Confirmed Tornado on the ground
- Activate the siren for a second time if a NEW warning is issued AND it is 15 minutes after the last warning siren activation

## **Public Safety "on air" dispatch radio notification of Tornado Warning**

- Police Supervisors and All Units
- E.M.S. All Stations
- Fire All Stations

## **NOTED CHANGE and when NOT To activate**

- There is NO "all clear". Do not activate for an all clear this causes confusion.
- Sirens are NOT to be used for any other hazard
- No alert for thunderstorm or flood warnings
- No activations are to be made "on the authority of" you should talk to authorizing person and add the person's information into the call notes.

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## **Siren Test and Repair Policy**

- "Friday Test" 30 second tests of the system will be conducted on Fridays at 11:00am when weather is forecasted as clear. The decision to cancel the Friday test may be authorized by the dispatch supervisor on duty, public safety official, or Emergency Management. A call will be created to track testing dates and track canceled tests a narrative should be provided in the call notes.
- "Siren Repair" When a siren repair is conducted dispatch shall be notified and an incident (EMN call) will be created to track such events.

- All test activations will be conducted on Friday at 11:00am otherwise a 48 hour notification to Emergency Management will be required so a media release may be prepared.

### **Verbal Notification of Activation**

Delaware County is now under a Tornado Warning. The public is advised to turn to local media outlets for information. A Tornado Warning has been issued for \_\_\_\_\_ (describe location) in Delaware County the Tornado Warning is in affect till \_\_\_\_\_ (time).

(Repeating)

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### **Verbal Notification Friday Test**

This is a test of the Delaware County Warning System.

This is only a test.

If this were an actual tornado warning the public is advised to turn to local media outlets for information.

This is only a test.

### **Jurisdictional Activation**

Delaware County Emergency Management recognizes that the towns in Delaware County may have the ability to activate their own sirens in the event they perceive a threat. In the event of such activation the activating official should communicate the 911 Communications Center to maintain County wide operational awareness. Communications will then notify the EOC of the event.

Professionally,



Jason D. Rogers  
Director