

# Outdoor Warning Sirens Frequently Asked Questions

## FAQ Sheet



### 1. What are the outdoor warning sirens used for?

To alert the public of a severe weather threat. Threats generally include tornado and severe weather warnings, hail over 1.50 inch and straight-line winds more than 70 mph or higher. The primary function of the sirens is notify people outside of an imminent weather threat and the criteria for utilizing it depends on the storm track. Depending on your proximity to a siren location, it may be heard indoors, however, it is not intended for that specific purpose.

### 2. Where will I hear the outdoor warning siren?

Outdoor warning sirens are designed to be heard and alert people outdoors to go indoors and receive weather updates from local media. Outdoor sirens can be heard for approximately 1 mile in each direction. However, rain, wind and hail and other factors may affect your ability to hear the sirens.

### 3. What do I do when I hear the outdoor warning siren?

Seek shelter indoors and tune to local media, news apps or a weather radio for more information. It is best to shelter in place.

### 4. Does hearing the outdoor warning siren mean I am in imminent danger?

Outdoor warning sirens are often sounded for town-wide severe weather warnings and not storm specific warnings. The safest approach is to be proactive and utilize all information outlets available to determine whether taking immediate shelter should be your next step.

### 5. Will the outdoor warning sirens sound if the power fails?

Yes, the outdoor warning sirens have backup batteries to ensure functionality during a power outage.

### 6. Why can't I hear outdoor warning sirens in my house?

A widespread misconception is that you will be able to hear the outdoor warning sirens inside your home. They are designed, however, to alert those outdoors there is a severe weather threat approaching. If you live near a siren, chances are you may hear it when indoors.

### 10. Are the outdoor warning sirens the only alert necessary to be weather aware during severe storms?

No, the most efficient way to stay prepared and informed is to gather information from multiple outlets. Local television stations will cover the ongoing storms, social media pages for emergency management or the county will post updates, and NOAA weather radios are also a great resource.

### 11. Where can I find more information?

The Town of Little Elm Emergency Management page: <http://ow.ly/VGtzC>

The Town of Little Elm social media websites:

Facebook: <http://ow.ly/VGtq4>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LittleElmOEM>

