

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What should I do if the siren sounds?

A: Go Inside! Tune into local television, local radio, use the internet, or listen to a NOAA All-Hazards Radio to find out what the hazard is and what to do next.

Q: When will the sirens be activated?

A: Nearly any emergency where we need to alert you to take action to protect yourself. Specifically:

- Tornado Warnings
- Severe Thunderstorm Warnings where wind is expected of 70 miles per hour or higher or hail of 2 inches or greater.
- During a chemical (hazardous material) emergency to signal an evacuation or the need for you to Shelter-In-Place.
- During any other emergency where you need to take immediate action to protect your life and health.

Q: What is are Severe Thunderstorms?

A: Thunderstorms containing winds in excess of 58 miles per hour, hail over 1 inch diameter, or tornadoes.

Q: What is a Watch message.

A: A severe weather WATCH means that conditions are favorable for storms to develop that may produce heavy rain, dangerous lightning, strong wind, large hail, tornadoes, or flooding.

Q: What is a Warning?

A. A weather WARNING means that life threatening weather is happening NOW in your area and immediate action is needed.

Q: Where should I go to shelter from severe thunderstorms or tornadoes?

A. Take shelter from severe weather in a small interior room on the lowest floor of your home. Stay away from windows. If you are in a building with a large span roof, such as a church, auditorium, or factory seek shelter away from the large, open spaces in a small interior room. If you are in a mobile home or vehicle, seek shelter in a nearby solidly built building. Plan ahead during severe weather, have a plan and allow plenty of time to reach your planned shelter. Do not use highway overpasses for shelter.

Q. When are sirens tested?

A: Sirens are tested in the metro Kansas City area on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 11:00 AM. Tests are usually less than 1 minute in length.

Q: I heard the sirens sound then they sounded again. What does this mean?

A: We do not sound “all clear.” If the sirens sound multiple times it means that the emergency is continuing and we are trying to alert persons who may have missed the first warning. In an emergency, sirens sound from 3 to 5 minutes.

Q: Why can't I hear the sirens in my home?

A: The sirens are intended for OUTDOOR warning only. For alerts indoors we recommend purchasing a NOAA All-Hazards Radio. These radios can be programmed to receive alerts for our area and will alert you weather or danger from other hazards while you are indoors. If you can hear the siren in your home, that is a bonus, but you will still need to know the nature of the hazard.

Q: Where can I get a NOAA radio?

A: The Metropolitan Emergency Managers Committee (MEMC), Midland Radio, Inc., and Price Chopper Stores sponsor a special store display in Price Chopper stores offering a NOAA radio at \$29.95. The same model radio costs up to \$50 in many other stores.

Q: Are NOAA radios available at other stores?

A. NOAA radios are available at most department, discount, and electronics stores and from many vendors on the internet.

Q. Where is the siren closest to my house?

A: 207 East Market, Bates City, Sni Valley Fire Station 2. You may also be able to hear sirens in the Oak Grove Outdoor Warning System.

Q: Where else can I get information?

A. Local broadcast television channels 4,5,9,and 41 or radio stations especially including:

KMZU-FM 100.7 Carrollton
KCMO-FM 94.9 Kansas City
KCUR-FM 89.3 Kansas City
KCMO-AM 710 Kansas City

Q: Where can I get information on the Internet?

A. The National Weather Service
<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/eax/>

Q: I noticed a strange, new ringtone and a strange text message on my mobile phone. Where did this message come from?

A. This message is the Wireless Emergency Alerting system (WEA). The major mobile telephone providers and the Federal Emergency Management Agency are cooperating to provide emergency messages to users of mobile phones. The messages are of three types:

Presidential Message: A message of national significance.

Amber Alert: A concerning a missing an endangered child.

Other Emergency Message: An emergency message concerning a weather warning, or another local emergency, such as hazardous material incident.

Users are able to opt out of Amber Alerts or Other Emergency Messages. Contact your mobile phone provider for details.

Q: Is there any local source of information?

A: Oak Grove – Sni Valley Emergency Management participates in a free text and e-mail alerting system that can send a text message to your text-capable mobile phone or an e-mail to your computer or mobile phone for local information about emergencies. To sign up for this service go to <http://www.nixle.com> on the internet. Click on “Sign up Free!” There is no charge from Nixle, but your mobile phone provider might charge for the text message, depending on your service plan.

Q: What should I do for a hazardous material incident?

A. Depending on the details of the incident, you may be asked to evacuate, in which case, you should leave as quickly as possible in the direction you are instructed (usually away from the incident). For certain types of incidents you may be asked to Shelter-in-Place, which means that you should close all the windows and doors in your home, shut off the furnace, air conditioner, or fans and go to a small interior room. Use towels, window plastic, and duct tape to make the room as air tight as possible. Shelter in place is used when a short time release of a toxic material is taking place.

When the Sirens Sound...
Seek Shelter!
Seek Information!

Sni Valley Fire Protection District Outdoor Warning System

At Bates City



Sni Valley Fire Protection District
1600 South Broadway
Oak Grove - Sni Valley
816-690-6990
www.snivalleyfire.org

Emergency Management Office
816-690-3773 ext. 1105