

August 4, 2021

PUBLIC SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT – Severe Weather Awareness

After all the severe weather the City of Norfolk experienced over the last few weeks, this is a good time to remind everyone about the outdoor warning sirens and weather radios. The outdoor warning sirens are for the purpose of outdoor warning ONLY. These sirens can fill a citizen with a false sense of security; as with loud storms and winds, the sirens simply will not be heard indoors in most cases. The network of outdoor warning sirens are intended for people are outside and may not have access to other means of severe weather warning notification. If severe weather is present, the residents of the City of Norfolk should not wait until the outdoor warning sirens go off before they head indoors and/or to a safe place for cover.

The City of Norfolk does not have public storm shelters, so all citizens need to plan ahead for a safe place to go when severe weather hits.

Everyone should also pay close attention to all media outlets for severe weather alerts and warnings. A good idea is to purchase a weather radio with battery backup and/or severe weather apps for your smart phone. However, the loss of internet and electricity is also a threat during severe weather, so battery backup devices tend to be more reliable than the phone apps.

If current weather conditions generate a legitimate life-safety issue necessitating a siren activation, the outdoor warning sirens will be sounding/alerting and every citizen of the City of Norfolk should seek shelter immediately. Here are 3 examples:

1. Tornado Warning Issued for Madison County and/or sighting of rotating funnel cloud/tornado
2. Straight Line Winds in Excess of 70 mph
3. Hail of 2" Diameter or Larger

Each of these severe weather conditions could potentially lead to a life-safety issue as with high wind speeds, large trees and hail can come through windows, roofs and through sides of buildings. Our goal is for all residents of the City of Norfolk to be as prepared as possible and to give them ample time to seek shelter.

An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure in severe weather!

Outdoor Warning Sirens



You should have other warning sources besides a siren.

If you wait for a siren to tell you to take shelter, you could be putting your life in danger.

...are for people who are OUTDOORS.

...are NOT intended to be heard inside your house, in your vehicle or in a business.

...are NOT designed to wake you up.

...are controlled locally, either by your emergency manager, fire or police department or some other government agency.

...are sounded based on local policy, and each community has its own criteria.

