



LINCOLN COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Lincoln County

Siren Activation Policy

Introduction:

Many misunderstandings and misconceptions have been brought forward regarding tornado siren activations in Lincoln County. This document strives to clarify and unify when tornado sirens will be activated.

Definitions:

Watch: A Tornado Watch means weather conditions are favorable for tornados to develop. Spotters and the general public should be aware of the possible development of a tornado.

Warning: A Tornado Warning means a trained spotter has witnessed a funnel cloud near to or touching the ground, or the National Weather Service in Sioux Falls has a radar indication of a possible tornado. During a warning, everyone including spotters should seek cover immediately.

Activation:

Sirens are activated by The 911 Dispatch Center in Canton. They will activate sirens at the request of trained spotters or when The National Weather Service in Sioux Falls issues a tornado warning for an area of Lincoln County. The NWS has the capability of issuing a warning for all or portions of the county or for individual cities. EX. If a tornado warning threatens Lennox, Tea, and Harrisburg, only those sirens will be activated. Not all the sirens for Canton, Fairview, and Hudson.

Testing:

Each city is responsible for the maintenance and testing of their sirens. Testing should be done on a regular basis during the spring, summer, and fall months. Testing requests should be coordinated with The 911 Center in Canton by using the non emergency number 605-764-2664. Someone then needs to report the status of each warning siren to the dispatch center.