



Emergency Siren Activation

Policy No: E-00-01

Adopted: November 25, 2019

Purpose: To establish procedures for activating the Emergency Warning Siren for Tornado warnings, Thunderstorms producing life threatening winds, Adverse Weather, and testing/maintenance.

Location: Siren is located on the water tower at the Public Works shop.
(605 3rd Street West)

Procedure:

1. Authorization

- a) The Emergency Warning Siren may be activated with authorization by:
 - i. Director of Emergency Management; or
 - ii. Deputy Director of Emergency Management; or
 - iii. Town Council OR CAO; or
 - iv. Public Works Supervisor; or
 - v. Upon request of the Alberta Emergency Management Agency

2. Conditions for Activation

- a) Environment Canada issues a TORNADO WARNING with the Town of Bow Island in the warned area and in the path of the storm.
- b) An authorized agency or spotter reports Rotation, Funnel Cloud, or Tornado in the Town of Bow Island area. This may include storms tracking towards the Town of Bow Island from the County of Forty Mile NO. 8 or adjacent counties or Municipal Districts.
- c) Environment Canada issues a THUNDERSTORM WARNING producing life threatening winds approximately 120 kph or greater.
- d) A spotter reports life threatening winds approximately 120 kph or greater in or approaching the Town of Bow Island.



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3. Procedure for Operation

- a) Emergency Warning Siren sounds a steady tone for three minutes.
- b) Siren is cycled or “rested” for three minutes.
- c) Emergency Warning Siren may be sounded multiple times during the warning.
- d) The Town of Bow Island does not sound an all-clear siren. The public should listen to Environment Canada or Alberta Emergency Alert and the local media for current weather information.

4. Actions by The Public: “Be Informed – Know Where to Go!”

- a) The activation of the Emergency Warning Siren is designed to send the message to the public to; move inside a sturdy building, seek shelter as low and as interior as possible, and be informed by listening to Environment Canada and Alberta Emergency Alert and the local media for current weather information.

5. Emergency Warning Siren Testing

- a) The Emergency Warning Siren will be tested annually on the first Wednesday of May at 11:00 a.m.
- b) The Emergency Warning Siren will be activated for thirty seconds.
- c) Local media and the public will be notified with the goal of a 12-24-hour notice prior to testing.
- d) The Emergency Warning Siren will not be tested if any of the following weather conditions exist:
 - i. 100% cloud cover or overcast skies
 - ii. Thunderstorms predicted for the area, and/or precipitation is falling
 - iii. Subzero weather conditions
- e) If the Outdoor Warning Siren is not tested on the regular monthly test date and time, a subsequent test will be held the following Wednesday at 11:00 AM. for that month.



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- f) Emergency Warning Sirens may be tested after maintenance/repairs with the following conditions:
 - i. Town Administration is notified
 - ii. Local media and the public notified with the goal of a 12-24-hour notice
- g) Testing of the siren by means of a short “bump” may be conducted at the discretion of the authorized personnel.
- h) Maintenance and inspection of the siren may be conducted as required and by discretion of the Public Works Manager.