



JEFFERSON CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Media Release

(573)634-6400

To: All Media Outlets
Contact Person: Lt. Dave Williams
Subject: Outdoor Warning Sirens
Date: 03/01/2024

Leading into severe weather awareness month we are excited to reveal some positive changes that have been made to the activation protocols for the Jefferson City & Cole County outdoor weather warning siren system. With the acquisition of the Rapid Warn software, we are now able to automate and prioritize the activation of the outdoor warning sirens to the areas of the county that fall under the National Weather Service warned polygon.

The outdoor warning sirens will activate for two severe weather events; Tornado Warning & Severe Thunderstorm Warning tagged Destructive. We have divided the county into seven (7) activation zones. <https://arcg.is/1D5XvS> Creating these zones will allow us to be able to provide a more targeted activation of the outdoor warning sirens and not activate sirens in areas that not affected by the storm. The way the zone-based activation will work, is if any single outdoor warning siren site or buffer site falls within an issued National Weather Service polygon for a Tornado Warning & Severe Thunderstorm Warning tagged Destructive all the outdoor warning sirens assigned to that zone will activate. This activation is also now automated based on the data being received from the National Weather Service to reduce any delays in getting the warned area notified. While automation is great and will reduce any delays in siren activation, we also still have the ability to manually activate the system is needed.

As a reminder, the outdoor warning sirens are operated off battery power and charged using solar energy. Therefore, we unable to have them activated continuously throughout the duration of the warning. So, when the audial alert tone shuts off that does not necessarily mean the warning has subsided. Please seek cover immediately when the sirens activate and tune into to your preferred weather source for more details about the warned threat. The system will activate the sirens in the affected zone throughout the duration of the warning on a 10-minute activation cycle. They will activate for 3 minutes on the initial issuance of the warning and then cycle 7-minutes off and 3-minutes on until he warning has expired.

It is important to remember the Outdoor Warning System is designed to provide warning to people that are "Outdoors". If you are inside a structure such as a business or your residence they are not designed to be heard. Please tune into your local news media or subscribe to a mobile alerting app such as Smart911 to provide you real time severe weather updates.

Crimestoppers may pay cash rewards for information that leads to arrests, seizures or solving serious crimes.
Callers with successful tips remain anonymous and could receive rewards up to \$5,000.
Contact Crimestoppers at 573-659-8477



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Message and data rates may apply. Text messages are sent to an un-restricted device.
Go to jeffrave.com for privacy and terms information.
Text STOP to 78015 to cancel or HELP for tech support.



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