Alert and Warning System

Lakewood's Outdoor Siren system

The City of Lakewood has a Siren Warning or Public Address system that is composed of 25 siren sites. The sirens are electronically tested monthly and the entire system is audibly tested annually in April. The siren system is intended to warn outdoor just the outdoor population of the City of Lakewood of natural or manmade danger.

When you hear the sirens you should seek shelter immediately and use the following guidelines:

If you are in:	Then:
A structure (e.g. residence, small building,	Go to a pre-designated shelter area such as a safe room,
school, nursing home, hospital, factory	basement, storm cellar, or the lowest building level. If
shopping center, high-rise building)	there is no basement, go to the center of an interior room
	on the lowest level (closet, interior hallway) away from
	corners, windows, doors, and outside walls. Put as many
	walls as possible between you and the outside. Get under a
	sturdy table and use your arms to protect your head and
	neck. Do not open windows.
A vehicle, trailer, or mobile home	Get out immediately and go to the lowest floor of a sturdy,
	nearby building or a storm shelter. Mobile homes, even if
	tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes.
Outside with no shelter	Lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your
	head with your hands. Be aware of the potential for
	flooding?
	Do not get under an overpass or bridge. You are safer in a
	low, flat location.
	Never try to outrun a tornado in urban or congested areas
	in a car or truck. Instead, leave the vehicle immediately
	for safe shelter.
	Watch out for flying debris. Flying debris from tornadoes
	causes most fatalities and injuries.

Once you have reached shelter, you should tune into local news media for additional information. Lakewood's sirens do not sound an "All Clear" tone, so consult the news media to learn when the danger has lifted.

Emergency Alert System (EAS)

The EAS transmits national, state and local warning messages used to notify you of emergency situations. It automatically breaks into regular television and radio programming to provide guidance for your specific area. The EAS allows broadcast stations, cable systems, and participating satellite companies to send and receive emergency information. The National Weather Service also broadcasts signals over NOAA Weather Radio.

The messages are meant to be very concise and informational. The voice may prompt you to take shelter, lock doors, or just be aware of a situation.

Uses for EAS:

- Severe weather or flash flood watch/warning
- Radiological emergency or hazardous material spill
- Evacuation notice or civil emergency message
- AMBER Alert

Emergency Preparedness Network (EPN) – Reverse 9-1-1

The EPN is a public safety tool that provides emergency notification to residents of impending dangers. The Lakewood Police Department can activate the EPN in a specified area, by use of the telephone system. Lakewood officials map out the affected area, record the emergency message, and send it out. Calls simultaneously reach the specified community to deliver warnings and critical safety instructions.

- The EPN uses the 9-1-1 data base as its source for telephone numbers. It is able to process up to 2,000 telephone numbers per minute.
- The system has a call back feature that ensures the message is delivered.
- Both published and non-published numbers are dialed, and the EPN will leave a message if an answering machine picks up.
- If the EPN reaches a busy signal, the system will try back three times to reach the intended party.

Tips on receiving a message from the EPN system

- The EPN message will not go through if you have a "block" on your phone. Deactivate this feature on your phone by dialing *78. To reactivate the service, dial *78.
- Do not call 9-1-1 after you are alerted by the EPN system, unless the message directs you to do so.
- Do not hang up in the middle of the EPN message. The entire message must be left, for the system to notify the Police Department that it was received.

Weather Radios

Weather Service personnel use information from weather radar, spotters and other sources to issue severe thunderstorm and tornado watches and warnings for areas where severe weather is potential or imminent (**refer to LAKEWOOD HAZARDS**). These warnings are passed to local radio and television stations, and are broadcast over local NOAA Weather Radio stations serving the warned areas. These warnings are also relayed to local emergency management and public safety officials who can activate local warning systems to alert communities.

Weather Radios can be purchased for a nominal fee at local electronics stores.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, and tasteless toxic gas produced as a by-product of combustion. Any fuel-burning appliance, vehicle, tool or other device has the potential to produce dangerous levels of carbon monoxide gas. Examples of carbon monoxide producing devices commonly in use around the home include:

Fuel fired furnaces (non-electric)

Gas water heaters
Fireplaces and woodstoves
Gas stoves
Gas dryers
Charcoal grills
Lawnmowers, snow blowers and other yard equipment
Automobiles

There are a number of different types and brands of carbon monoxide detectors on the market today. It is recommended that a detector be placed on each floor of a residence. Carbon monoxide detectors can be purchased at local hardware and electronics stores. Additional information can be obtained through the Consumer Products Safety Commission at www.cpsc.gov, or 1-800-638-2722.

Homeland Security Advisory System

The Homeland Security Advisory System was developed to provide a comprehensive and effective means to disseminate information regarding the risk of terrorist acts to Federal, State, and local authorities and to the American people. Such a system provides warnings in the form of a set of graduated "Threat Conditions" that would increase as the risk of the threat increases. At each "Threat Condition," Federal departments and agencies implement a corresponding set of "Protective Measures" to further reduce vulnerability or increase response capability during a period of heightened alert. There are five "Threat Conditions," each identified by a description and corresponding color. From lowest to highest, the levels and colors are:

Low = Green Guarded = Blue Elevated = Yellow High = Orange Severe = Red

Smoke Alarms

Install smoke alarms on every floor of your home, including the basement and outside of each sleeping area. Test your alarms once a month and replace your alarms after 10 years. Smoke alarms can be purchased at local hardware and discount department stores, and may be the small investment that saves your life and property. For further information on smoke alarms contact West Metro Fire Rescue's Public Education Officer at 303-989-4307.