



TOWN OF NANTUCKET OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS



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Quick Reference Guide for Activation and Testing

Essential Information:

- Warning Sirens will only be activated if Emergency Managers are notified of an imminent life threatening situation bearing down on the Town and County of Nantucket.
- The sirens will sound for 30 seconds. Depending on the circumstances the warning could be repeated after a period of time.
- If the sirens are activated seek immediate shelter and information from local broadcast outlets.
- The sirens only are activated for imminent life threatening situations. They will not be activated as an all clear signal.

When will the sirens be activated?

Severe Weather/Thunderstorms:

Severe weather can include, a major blizzard and significant flash flooding conditions. Thunderstorm warning issued by the National Weather Service or reported by trained weather spotters with the following conditions: Winds 60 mph or greater (trees blown over) and /or golf ball size hail or larger.

Tornadoes: Tornado warning issued by the National Weather Service. A warning is issued if a tornado or funnel cloud has been detected on doppler radar or reported by a trained spotter.

Tsunami: Tsunami warning issued by NOAA that is projected to impact the coast.

Local Life Threatening Events: Non- weather emergencies such as a serious hazardous materials incident, terrorism, nuclear power plant accident, chemical leak, etc. that poses a threat to people outdoors and require action to protect them.

How will we be notified that the emergency is over? All Clear: There will be **NO** "all clear" signal from the outdoor warning sirens. You should seek information from local radio and/or television broadcast stations to determine when the life threatening situation has passed.

Who can I call for information if the siren is sounding?

Please do not call 911 for further information unless you have a life threatening emergency. 911 is not an information line and tying up these lines into the dispatch center only hampers first responder's ability to handle an emergency. Call the Police Department non-emergency line at 508-228-1212. If you cannot get the information you need from public radio and television broadcasts.

What are the sirens for?

Outdoor warning sirens are designed to alert individuals who are outdoors of a possible hazard to their health or life safety. Building practices have effectively reduced the sound penetration inside. If you hear an outdoor warning siren you should "Shelter, Shut and Seek" information regarding the warning.

- Shelter yourself, your family and pets (if possible) inside
- Shut and lock doors and windows.
- Listen to radio and TV broadcasts as well as other sources of official information to learn how long you should stay sheltered and if there is any additional action you should take.
- Radio stations: WACK 97.7 FM
- Nantucket (Low Power) Public Safety Radio 105.5 FM
- Inquirer and Mirror Text Alerts
- Town of Nantucket web site: www.nantucket-ma.gov
- PING 4 Mobile Phone APP (free download)
- Social Media initiated by the Town of Nantucket

How often will the sirens be tested and how will I know the difference between a test and a life threatening emergency?

Emergency managers will test the sirens at least monthly but the testing procedure is silent and the general public will not even be aware that it is taking place. If for some reason the warning sirens need to be tested in alert mode the public will be given prior notification of the live tests via social media, radio and television broadcast and other means listed above of the date and time of the test.

How many and where are the sirens located?

There are 3 outdoor warning sirens in the Nantucket emergency warning system. (Madaket, Mid-Island, Siasconset) The primary activation point of the sirens is in the Nantucket 911 Center located at 4 Fairgrounds Rd.

What else can I do?

Radio and television broadcasts are usually the best source of ongoing information about major emergencies. Be aware, though, that different stations and channels serve different areas and different staffing levels. You may need to search for information specific to Nantucket.

Are there other things that I should know about emergency alerts?

Nantucket uses a combination of methods for alerting the public when disaster threatens. We recognize that no one application can provide warning to all citizens. As a result, we take a systematic approach, understanding the advantages and disadvantages of each component. The warning system can only be effective if you understand the benefits and limitations of the

alerting methods available. There are a great deal of warning devices and methods available to you. We recommend that you take advantage of as many of them as possible. No one warning system is perfect and no one warning method can be guaranteed never to fail. By relying on one single method, such as the sounding of the outdoor warning sirens or receiving information solely from broadcast meteorologist, you risk missing a warning if that system fails. By taking a systematic approach and getting information from more than one source, you are much more likely to receive the warning, even if there is a failure in one component.

What do Nantucket Emergency Managers recommend that citizens do to insure that they learn of life threatening situations?

We strongly recommend that you consider the following:

- Purchase a weather alert radio if you do not already have one
- Subscribe to a wireless email alert system to receive alerts on your phone
- Rely on the sirens only for outdoor warning
- Turn to broadcast radio or television for details and follow-up information
- Create an emergency information kit and prepare yourself to receive as much information about the specific emergency.

