

## SIREN PROTOCOLS AND PROCEDURES

The question is often asked about how and when the tornado warning siren system is activated. Saline County Emergency Management has established a protocol for activation of the siren system. Sirens in Salina and the surrounding communities (Assaria, Brookville, Kipp, New Cambria, Falun & Smolan) will only be sounded when one or both of the following conditions exist:

1. When a **Tornado Warning** has been issued for Saline County by the National Weather Service Office in Wichita and/or
2. When a SkyWarn/trained storm spotter, local law enforcement officer, or fire personnel reports **SIGHTING** a funnel cloud or tornado.

Sirens will only be activated for the communities that are threatened. (If a tornado is approaching Brookville, the sirens in Salina, Smolan, Assaria, and New Cambria would not necessarily be sounded.)

The sirens can be activated from either Emergency Management or from the City of Salina Emergency Communications 911 Center (Dispatch).

Sirens **will not** be used for an “All Clear” signal. Tune to local TV or radio stations for information and instructions. Wichita Weather Service will extend, cancel, or allow the warning to expire. This information will be relayed to local radio stations.

The siren system is generally tested on the first Monday of the month at 4:00 pm. If the weather is bad, the test will be held the next Monday.

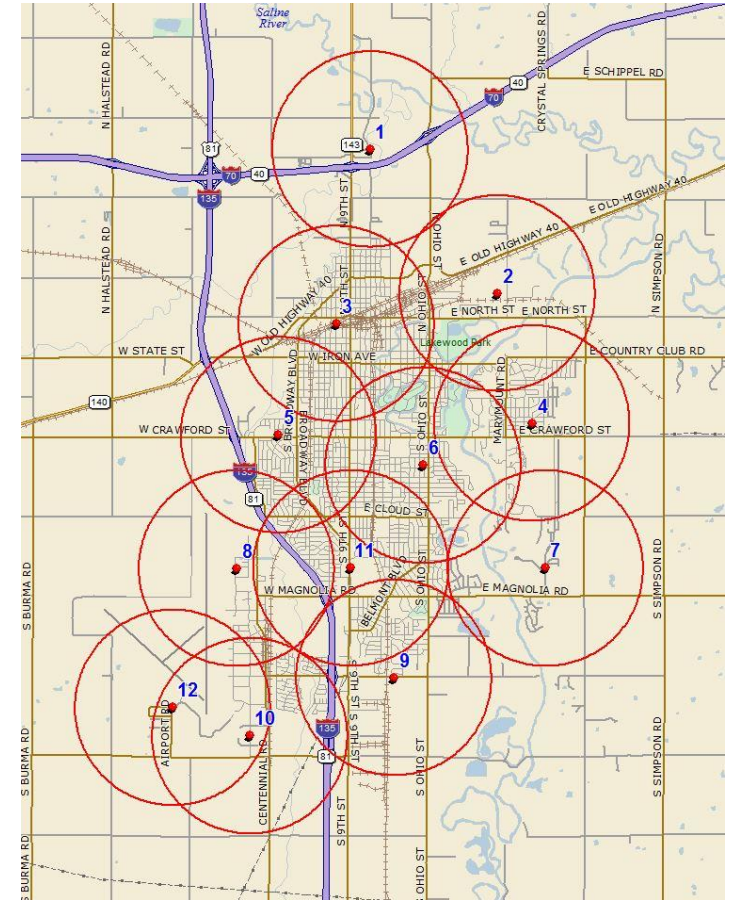
## LOCATIONS OF SIRENS IN SALINA

- 001: 257 Gold Rd.
- 002: Saline Sewer Authority
- 003: 420 N. 12<sup>th</sup> St.
- 004: 616 Georgetown Road
- 005: 681 Whittinghill Ave.
- 006: 904 Beatrice
- 007: 2211 Markley Rd.
- 008: 2205 Hein Rd.
- 009: 3030 Cortland Ave.
- 010: 3520 Scanlon Ave.
- 011: 2245 S. 9<sup>th</sup> St.
- 012: 3315 Airport Rd.

## County Units

- 013: 111 Main St., Smolan
- 014: 521 Maple, Gypsum
- 015: 148 E. Main, Assaria
- 016: 101 E Main, Kipp
- 017: 103 S. Center St., New Cambria
- 018: Brookville Hometelco
- 019: Falun

## SIREN COVERAGE



Prepared by  
Saline County Emergency Management  
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## WATCHES AND WARNINGS

A **WATCH** is issued by the Storm Predictions Center in Norman, OK, to indicate when and where severe thunderstorms and/or tornados are *possible and most likely to occur*. Everyone in or near the **WATCH** area should be alert for signs of threatening weather and make preliminary plans for action if a **WARNING** is issued.

A **WARNING** is issued by the National Weather Service in Wichita when the National Weather Service has received notification that a Tornado has been spotted or that Doppler Radar indicates Thunderstorm circulation which can spawn a tornado.

**SEEK SHELTER IMMEDIATELY!**

## A WORD ABOUT THE SIRENS AND THE WARNING SYSTEMS

The sirens are designed and intended to be outdoor warning devices **ONLY** and their sound may not penetrate a structure because of the distance from the siren; background noise levels within the structure; and other factors such as wind speed and direction, obstruction (trees and buildings) present in the sound path, and changes in terrain. The planning range for the effectiveness of the warning signals at a normal 70 decibels for the residential area is approximately 5,120 feet.

It is for these reasons that Saline County Emergency Management encourages people not to become dependent on the outdoor warning sirens as their only method of receiving a Tornado Warning. We recommend that when the County is under a Severe Thunderstorm/Tornado Watch or Warning people listen to the radio or the TV for updates on the weather conditions.

A portable, battery powered radio is the best as it will still work if the power goes out. If the power in your area of town is out, your TV will not work (sirens have a battery backup so will continue to work for a short time), so you will need the radio to keep you informed in the event a Tornado Warning is issued.

Weather radios are also good means of keeping yourself informed about weather conditions. Most have battery backup and sound a loud alarm when Watches and Warnings for this area are issued. Some weather radios can be programmed so that you only receive Watch/Warning information for the counties you select.

It is the responsibility of Saline County Emergency Management to inform and warn the public in the event of severe thunderstorms (winds greater than 58 mph and/or hail more than 1" in diameter) and tornados. What each individual does with the information and the warning is a personal choice. Citizens are responsible for their own safety.

IF THE WARNING SIRENS ARE SOUNDING, IT IS OUR STRONG RECOMMENDATION THAT YOU **SEEK SHELTER IMMEDIATELY!** AND LISTEN TO THE RADIO OR TV FOR FURTHER WEATHER INFORMATION.

**Outdoor**  
**WARNING**



**SIRENS**  
**For Salina**  
**and**  
**Saline County**