

Lebanon's Outdoor Warning System Alerts of Potential Tornadoes

Spring weather can be unpredictable. Thunderstorms cause most of the severe spring weather, since they can bring lightning and tornadoes. Lebanon's outdoor warning system is designed to warn people who are outdoors of potential tornadoes in the immediate area. The system consists of seven sirens located throughout the city, and the sirens are tested on the first Wednesday of each month at noon.

Other than for regular monthly testing, the siren system is activated only when a tornado has been spotted by trained observers or when the National Weather Service has issued a "Tornado Warning" for Warren County. A "Tornado Warning" means that a tornado has been spotted, or that Doppler radar indicates a thunderstorm circulation which can spawn a tornado. When a tornado warning is issued, immediate safety precautions should be taken.

Warning sirens are designed to alert people who are outdoors of potential tornadoes. They are not intended or designed to alert people in houses, businesses or vehicles.

or NOAA weather alert radio to be informed of the storm location, path and the duration of the warning. No "all-clear" signal is issued. When the warning has expired it is safe to leave your shelter location, but remain prepared to respond to additional warnings that may be issued.

It is strongly recommended that every residence, business and school be equipped with a weather alert radio with battery back-up. Weather alert radios automatically activate to warn and inform you whenever a warning is issued for Warren County.

If you are in 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.

What Should You Do if You Hear a Siren?



When you hear an outdoor warning siren you should seek immediate shelter. If you are outside, go to a pre-designated shelter area such as a safe room, basement, storm cellar, or the lowest level of the building. If 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. Do not open windows.

Once you are inside and in a safe location, turn on a TV, radio

If you are outside with no building available, seek cover by lying 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.

Signs of Severe Weather

Whenever severe weather is possible, and you see any of the following signs:

- Dark, often greenish sky
- Large hail
- A large, dark, low lying cloud (particularly if rotating)
- Loud Roar, similar to a freight train

Take Shelter immediately, and do not wait to hear the outdoor warning system.

Lebanon's new Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) uses wireless and fiber optic technology, just like wireless internet and cable TV, to send your meter reading information to the City. The new meters allow the City to collect real-time electric and water consumption information on a regular basis, which will allow the City to better serve our customers by proactively identifying potential problems such as service disruptions and water leaks.

Protection of privacy is important to the City, and deployment of the new AMI system provides for adequate levels of customer privacy by adhering to the following standards:

- The City's AMI system will not be set up in a manner that will allow anyone other than the property owner to monitor or control any device within the home or business. If a resident or business would like to install their own electric load management devices in their premises to improve energy efficiency, the new AMI meters have the ability to support this. However this would be the property owner's decision and it would be their responsibility to purchase, install, and monitor such devices. The City's AMI Privacy Protection Policy (Resolution 2011-052) was adopted by the City Council on June 14, 2011.
- Personal energy and water consumption information is confidential. The only information communicated is your meter number and your electric and water usage (the same information that was displayed on the old conventional meters at your premises). All utility usage information will be safely transmitted over secure networks to and from the City. As in now the case, your utility usage information will be protected and secure. The City is required to comply with federal laws regarding the privacy, protection, and disclosure of personal information.

Local Tax Filing Deadline is April 17

It's that time of year again to begin preparing for annual tax filing. Lebanon residents and businesses must make their local tax filing by April 17, 2012 to avoid any penalties. Filing is also required even if no tax is due by the filer. For more information, contact the tax dept. at 228-3123.



Park Program Offers Community Involvement

Lebanon's Adopt-A-Park program encourages community involvement in keeping the City's park system clean and visually appealing. Organizations are encouraged to put together a work plan that could entail scheduled clean-up days, landscaping projects, or other improvement projects in our parks. This plan can be tailored to the organization's resources and could range from projects scheduled for 1-2 days a year, or on a continual basis.



The City is eager to discuss any opportunities there may be for an organization to get involved, and will provide a project liaison from the Park Board to assist in the process. For all approved projects, the City will place a sign in the project area recognizing the volunteer efforts of the organization.

Please contact the Deputy City Manager at 228-3103 for information about this program.

City Launches New Website

Lebanon's updated website is now online. In addition to providing up-to-date community information, the new site offers users the ability to sign up for notifications on topics of interest, reserve a park shelter and more. Visit the City of Lebanon at www.lebanonohio.gov.

