



Outdoor Warning System Alerts of Potential Tornadoes

Spring weather can be unpredictable, and 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. 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.

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 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.

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. Also, never try to outrun a tornado 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.

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

Signs of Severe Weather



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

Downtown Walking Tours Offered



Downtown walking tours will be offered on April 30 and June 25. The 1 1/2 hour tour is hosted by historian John Zimkus, and focuses on historical buildings in Lebanon and the interesting businesses that have occupied them over the years. Participants will meet at Gazebo Park, beside the Golden Lamb, at 10 a.m. on their scheduled tour date.

The tour is free and registration is appreciated. If you are interested, call Connie Baugher at 513-228-3156 or email at cbaugher@lebanonohio.gov.

Are You a Good Neighbor?

We can all help to make Lebanon a great place to live and work. One of the best ways to be a good neighbor is to follow the City's ordinances.

Invasive Plant Species

All premises shall be maintained free of any plant species that encroaches or invades a neighboring property or public right of way in a manner that results in damage to property.

An example of such an invasive plant is running bamboo. Once planted in the ground, running bamboo plants create a strong and complex network of plants that cannot be controlled by simply cutting, because the roots will continue to travel underground in search of new territory to colonize.

A running bamboo's root system



will extend roughly 20 feet annually and over 100 feet from the original plant in its lifetime. The roots can be as dense as steel cable and are very difficult to eradicate. If left unchecked, roots can cause major destruction to neighboring yards, other plants, and infrastructure, including, buildings and their foundations, driveways, walkways, septic systems and more.

Property owners who plant such invasive plant species will be sent a notice that such vegetation must be cut or destroyed.

Barking Dogs

Dog owners are not allowed to harbor or keep a dog that, by loud and frequent or habitual barking, howling or yelping, shall cause an annoyance or disturbance to the neighborhood.

Barking dog violations may be reported to the Lebanon Police department at 932-2010.



Proper Mulching & Pruning Promotes Healthy Tree Growth

Spring is just around the corner, and it will soon be time to begin yard work. To promote healthy, long-living trees, it is important to understand proper tree care techniques.

Mulching

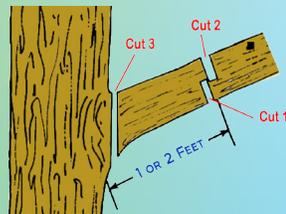
Proper mulching is crucial to maintaining a healthy tree.

“Volcano” mulching should be avoided, because it can lead to trunk rot and decay, shallow root growth and girdling, insect infestations, and premature death of your trees.



Pruning

You may also need to prune your tree this year. To avoid damaging your tree, it is recommended that you use the 3-cut technique. Pruning cut location is critical to a tree's growth and wound closure response. Make pruning cuts just outside the branch collar to avoid damaging the trunk and compromising wound responses. Improper pruning cuts may lead to permanent internal decay. If a large branch must be shortened, prune it back to a secondary branch or a bud. Cuts made between buds or branches may lead to stem decay, sprout production, and misdirected growth.



Regular pruning of your trees can keep them healthy by removing dead wood, and young trees should be trained using pruning techniques to promote healthy tree structure development. For more information on trees and tree care, you can always visit www.treesaregood.com.

Public Notice

The City of Lebanon 2015 Sanitary Sewer Overflow Report is available on the City's website at www.lebanonohio.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/642. Please contact Water-Wastewater Director John Habig at 228-3601 for more information.

Save Time & Money

Lebanon customers have three convenient options to pay their utility bills without the time and expense of writing a check:

1. **Online Bill Payment:** Customers can pay their bill online at www.lebanonohio.gov using a credit or debit card.
2. **Automatic account debit (ACH):** Your monthly bill is automatically debited from your checking account.
3. **Credit/Debit Card:** Debit and credit cards are accepted at the utility-payment window.

Payments can also be made through the utility payment drop-box located in the rear parking lot of the City Building. Contact the Service Department at 933-7200 for details.

Local Tax Filing Deadline is April 18

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 18, 2016 to avoid any penalties. Filing is also required even if no tax is due.

Tax returns will not be mailed for 2016 filing. Please visit our website at www.lebanonohio.gov and go to the Finance Department page to download the forms. You have the option of completing the form online, which will auto calculate your information for you, or you can print the forms and complete on your own. For more information, contact the tax department at 933-7205.

