

Town of Naicam Policy Manual

<i>POLICY TITLE:</i> EMERGENCY WARNING SIREN POLICY	<i>POLICY NUMBER:</i> 06/2018	<i>EFFECTIVE DATE:</i> July 10, 2018
<i>ORIGIN:</i> Chief Administrative Officer	<i>ADOPTED BY COUNCIL ON:</i> July 10, 2018	<i>AMENDED DATE:</i>

Purpose:

To establish common guidelines for activation of outdoor warning sirens throughout the Town of Naicam.

Activation:

Confusion hinders public response. Using common/consistent guidelines for the outdoor warning sirens throughout the Town of Naicam minimizes confusion in emergency situations. Establishing common guidelines will also enable communities to partner in an area-wide public education campaign regarding sirens and the overall public emergency notification system.

Scope:

The outdoor warning sirens represent only one part of a broader public emergency notification system. Other components might include: SaskAlert, Notify by Network, and the local media. Sirens are used to alert citizens of an imminent hazard and prompt them to seek additional information on the emergency (timing, location, and severity). This document is not intended to relieve, replace, or supersede any authority or responsibility local jurisdictions might have to protect the citizens of their community.

Activation Conditions:

Siren activation recommend for:

- 1) Emergency
 - a. A serious, unexpected, and often dangerous situation requiring immediate action.
- 2) Tornado Warning(s)
 - a. Issued by Environment Canada
 - b. Tornado or funnel cloud reported by a trained spotter (law enforcement, fire department official, emergency management agency)
- 3) Anhydrous Ammonia Incident(s)

Warnings are officially issued by Environment Canada and are received by the Provincial Public Safety Telecommunications Network (PPSTN)/911 Communication Centers in Saskatchewan. Environment Canada warnings define the area threatened by the storm and include information about the history and/or potential of the specific storm. In addition, trained spotters such as law enforcement, fire, and emergency management officials may provide real-time reports of an imminent threat approaching or occurring in the community. When a warning includes the specific hazards defined above or when trained spotters report any of these hazardous conditions, sirens should be activated for all jurisdictions in the threatened area. Because of technology limitations and the configuration of siren activation systems, there may be areas adjacent to the threatened area, but outside the

official warning boundaries that are warned as a precaution.

Activation Duration:

When activated, the tone should be sounded for 3 minutes, re-sounding every 10 minutes for the duration of the threat (warning period).

All Clear:

There will NOT be an “all clear” signal from the outdoor warning sirens. People should monitor reliable sources such as SaskAlert, Notify by Network or local media to know when the hazard threat has dissipated.

Testing:

Outdoor warning sirens shall be tested on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:15 p.m. for 30 seconds only. If a severe weather watch or warning is in effect for Naicam area prior to 7:15 p.m. on a scheduled test day, the sirens should not be tested that day. Outdoor warning siren tests will resume on the next scheduled monthly date. Testing may be suspended during the winter months (December – February) when ice or sub-zero temperatures could damage the siren system. Testing should be considered condition-dependent during these months. Testing schedule should be maintained whenever possible for continuity purposes as well as system reliability. If testing is required at any time outside of the normal monthly testing schedule, residents shall be notified. Town of Naicam will then notify the media to better ensure awareness by the public of the additional testing and hopefully reduce the number of concerned callers.

Ownership/Maintenance:

Purchase, installation, ownership, and maintenance of the siren are the responsibility of the local government jurisdiction in which the siren is physically located. Other ownership and maintenance relationships may exist between public or public/private entities but shall be expressly documented and agreed upon by parties involved in the agreement.

Shelter in place procedures

- Move inside immediately
- Close all windows
- Turn off ventilation systems
- Go into and seal a room, preferably with a washroom
- Turn on your portable radio

Emergency Kit

- Precut, labeled plastic for doors, windows and vents
- Roll of tape
- Snacks and water bottles
- Access to towels – wet these to seal bottom of doorways
- Portable radio and package of new batteries