

CITY OF BUTLER, MISSOURI OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

OUTDOOR WARNING SIREN POLICY

Outdoor Warning Siren Activation Policy:

This guideline is to establish procedures for the activation of Outdoor Warning Sirens in the City of Butler, Missouri. This guideline will supersede previous policies or guidelines.

In reviewing existing guidelines, some citizens think sirens as necessary only for tornado warnings. Tornados range in size from an EF0 (65 mile per hour minimum) to an EF5 (200 plus mile per hour).

In comparison, a severe thunderstorm is capable of producing winds of 70-80 mile per hour. It is imperative to sound the sirens for this type of high-speed wind activity as well, due to the potential for both property damage and the threat to life.

Outdoor warning sirens in the City of Butler shall be activated when:

- A. The National Weather Service issues a Tornado Warning **or** a trained spotter reports a tornado.
 1. In Bates County, Missouri or Linn County, Kansas, **AND**
 2. The path of the tornado includes the City of Butler.
- B. **Or**, the National Weather Service reports a storm system producing life threatening winds **And** the path includes the City of Butler.

Outdoor Warning Siren Activation Sequence:

- A. The sirens will sound a steady tone for three (3) minutes, then will be off for three (3) minutes. This sequence will be repeated until the danger has passed the city.
- B. The sounding of sirens means “Seek shelter, Seek Information”!
- C. Each siren activation indicates a tornado/high-speed wind event is approaching the city.

- D. The City of Butler **will not** sound an all-clear siren. Listen to NOAA weather radio or other information sources.

Storm Siren Audible Testing:

- A. Sirens will be audibly tested on the first Wednesday of each month, at 10:00 A.M.
- B. The Siren test will last for one (1) minute.
- C. Audible testing **will not** take place:
 1. During times when storms are actually in, or predicted in the area
 2. During freezing weather conditions
 3. If not tested due to the above conditions, make up testing will not take place. Sirens will be tested at the next scheduled time and date.
 4. **Siren Repair:** Siren testing may need to take place for repair. If this is necessary, usually only one siren needs to be tested at a time. This type of test should only be for a minimal amount of time and will be done after notice is given through the media in advance.

This policy will be effective May 1, 2024

Jason Bennett
Fire Chief/Emergency Management Director