

DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER 02-07

OFFICE of the CHIEF OF POLICE
REPLACES: General Order 83-05
SOP 600.07.00

DATE: June 27, 2002

EMERGENCY SIREN WARNING SYSTEM

I. PURPOSE.

To provide basic information and response instructions to department employees in regard to the St. Louis County Emergency Siren Warning System.

II. DEFINITIONS.

Tornado Watch - Weather conditions are favorable for tornado development.

Tornado Warning - A tornado has been sighted or indicated by radar. People in the path of the storm should take immediate life saving action.

III. GENERAL.

The St. Louis County Police Department's Communication Unit maintains a "radio-controlled" siren system encoder device that can activate the Emergency Warning System at either of the two siren locations within the City of Clayton. These sirens are located at Big Bend Boulevard and Southmoor, and atop the courts building at 7900 Carondelet.

A. Activation

The St. Louis County Police Department will activate the warning siren system whenever the National Weather Service issues a Tornado Warning for a county adjacent to St. Louis County and the direction of the storm threatens to effect St. Louis County. If a tornado warning is subsequently issued for St. Louis County, the sirens will again be activated.

There is no "All Clear" message sounded through the siren system. Individuals and emergency service agencies will be required to monitor the National Weather Service radio broadcasts for this information.

1. Types of Warnings

The system may be used to alert or warn the public for the following reasons:

- a. Tornado Warning
- b. Monthly or special tests.
- c. Other uses.

2. Siren Tone

The current siren warning system will employ a single steady tone to alert the public to impending severe weather or other similar events.

IV. RESPONSE TO WARNING SIRENS.

When the tornado sirens are activated in regard to a tornado warning, communications personnel will monitor radio traffic from the St. Louis County Police Department, and informational broadcasts issued by the National Weather Service via radio and television.

Should a tornado threaten Clayton, the communications will alert department personnel by radio and intercom to seek immediate shelter. Dispatchers will maintain their posts as long as possible at which time they will seek shelter in lower level of police headquarters and continue operations as best as possible with portable radios, telephones, and such other equipment as may be available. Once an "All Clear" message has been received, department employees will resume their duties.

V. SYSTEM MALFUNCTIONS.

Problems or malfunctions of the Emergency Warning Siren System should be reported to St. Louis County Police Communications or the Office of Emergency Management.

BY ORDER OF:

CAPTAIN THOMAS J. BYRNE
Interim Chief of Police

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