

Weather Warning Sirens FAQ

If the sirens are activated, is there definitely a tornado?

No. The sirens are Early Warning Sirens. Their purpose is to inform the public as early as possible about potentially dangerous weather conditions in our area.

When are the Early Warning Sirens activated?

The current policy for the City of Bryan is that when the National Weather Service (NWS) issues a TORNADO WARNING for Bryan or All of Williams County, the Early Warning Sirens will be activated. Sirens are only activated for Tornado Warnings. For clarification, listed below is the National Weather Service definitions of Warnings, Watches, and Advisories:

Watches vs. Warning vs. Advisory

Following are the National Weather Service definitions for watch, warning, and advisory. These terms form the basis for each product issued to the public.

Advisory An advisory is issued for less serious conditions that cause significant inconvenience and, if caution is not exercised, could lead to situations that may threaten life and/or property.

Watch A watch is issued when the risk of a hazardous weather or hydrologic event has increased significantly, but its occurrence, location and/or timing is still uncertain. It is intended to provide enough lead time so those who need to set their plans in motion can do so. Watches evolve into warnings, advisories, or they are canceled.

Warning These products are issued when a hazardous weather or hydrologic event is occurring, is imminent, or has a very high probability of occurrence. A warning is used for conditions posing a threat to life or property. The NWS is the single “official” voice when issuing warnings for life-threatening situations.

What should you do when the Early Warning Sirens are activated?

SEEK SHELTER IMMEDIATELY and monitor local TV, Radio, Weather Radio, or the internet in order to obtain accurate weather information so you will be able to make an informed safety decision. Please DO NOT call 9-1-1, City hall, fire department, or Sheriff's office requesting information on why the sirens are sounding, as this ties up the telephone lines and prevents people with true emergencies from getting through to police, fire, and EMS dispatchers.

Who activates the Sirens?

The Early Warning Sirens are activated by the Police/Fire/911 Dispatch Center. The dispatchers are instructed when to activate the sirens.

How many Early Warning Sirens are there in the City of Bryan?

There are 12 sirens in the City of Bryan located in various areas. The City of Bryan also controls the siren at Norlick Place subdivision in Center Township and the 4 sirens in Pulaski Township.

Is there an "All-Clear" tone or sound?

No. Because our sirens make only one sound, you will not hear an all-clear tone or sound. It is strongly recommended that you continue to monitor local radio, television, weather radio, or internet until you have determined weather conditions to be safe.