



**Erie County Emergency Management Agency &
Office of Homeland Security**

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Timothy G. Jonovich, Director

ERIE COUNTY OUTDOOR EMERGENCY SIRENS

March 15, 2023

As part of Severe Weather Awareness Week (March 19 – March 25), Erie County will be participating in the Statewide tornado drill by testing its Outdoor Emergency Sirens on Wednesday, March 22nd at 9:50 a.m..

The county sirens are activated by the Erie County Sheriff's Office any time there is a **TORNADO WARNING** issued by the National Weather Service, or the reported sighting of a tornado/funnel cloud by public safety personnel, or the report of property damage or injuries caused by severe storms/tornado/funnel cloud.

Erie County operates 44 outdoor severe weather warning sirens as part of the countywide severe weather warning system. Emergency Management Director, Tim Jonovich, reminds area residents that the sirens are designed to serve as an **outdoor warning device** and therefore are not designed to necessarily alert someone inside their home, office or school. The sirens simply mean "to seek shelter and tune to your local TV and/or radio for further weather information." Director Jonovich recommends the use of NOAA All Hazards/Weather radios as the best indoor warning systems available today. NOAA radios can be purchased at many area department stores and on line.

It is strongly recommended that each family/household and business **pre-plan** for weather emergencies. During an emergency, residents are asked not to call 9-1-1 or the Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center whenever the sirens are activated for weather related emergencies, as dispatchers will be coordinating the response of area agencies.

The sirens are **not** activated upon expiration of the warning; you will **never** hear the sirens activated to indicate "all clear."

Due to Erie County's participation in this Statewide drill, the regular siren test scheduled for April 1 will be cancelled. Regular monthly testing of the sirens will resume on May 1, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.

Sincerely,

Tim Jonovich

Tim Jonovich
Director