

Barton County Siren Activation Protocol

County Storm Sirens are the responsibility of the Barton County Emergency Management. Storm Sirens are an outdoor warning device; if they alert individuals in their homes or workplace then they have gone above and beyond their function to notify the public of pending problems or disaster. The County Emergency Management still urges individuals to purchase NOAA Weather Radios for their homes and workplace.

When conditions are right our local storm spotters are activated and sent to different locations in our county, By the Emergency Management Director. They are trained by the National Weather Service on what to look for and what type of weather conditions to report. They are our eyes and ears for the EOC and the NWS in the county.

The Emergency Operations Center is then opened and staffed at the Barton County Court House office. Located at 1004 Gulf St. in Lamar. And all the storm spotters are in contact via radio or phone to them. The EOC keeps the spotters informed via viewing Local Weather Radar, TV Stations, Radio, and the National Weather Service information, and this is related back to all spotters. If any other information is collected at the Fire Dept. or 911 center this information is relayed to the EOC either by phone or radio to them. These Departments are asked to **Monitor** the **County Wide** Freq. On their radio, so to keep up to date on what is going on in the county.

Then Based on this information “Tornado Warning” the personnel in the EOC will then activate the storm sirens in the county. We currently have 19 sirens located throughout the county. They are divided into 4 zones. Northeast, Northwest, and Southeast, Southwest. With Hwy 160 being and I-49 dividing line. This includes the City of Liberal and Mindenmines and Golden City. The City of Lamar is not in the system and is activated by their officials per their protocol.

Other personal authorized to activate the **County Sirens** are the county Commissioners and the County Sheriff besides the EMD and his Asst. And if for some reason there is a Tornado Warning or conditions warrant for the sirens to be sounded. And the EOC is not staffed then the 911 center should activate the county sirens if for some reason this cannot be done there the Lamar Fire Dept. can activate the county sirens from their location. This should then be followed up via radio or phone to check to see if that some of the sirens did activate in the location they chose.

Activation of County Sirens; Sirens will be activated when:

The NWS issues a Tornado Warning for Barton County.

When trained Law Enforcement, and Fire Department Personnel or Storm Spotters have spotted a Tornado, Funnel Cloud, or Shelf cloud with major rotation that might produce a Tornado.

County Storm Sirens will be activated from the following locations in order.

- #1 Barton Co. EOC (Emergency Operations Ctr)
- #2 Barton County 911 Center when the EOC is not operational or directed by the E.O.C. to do so.
- #3 Lamar Fire Dept. or when directed to by the EOC or 911 Center.

When pending severe weather threatens Barton County and you have not heard from the EOC, then the 911 Center should notify the EMD (Tom Ryan) EMD and the Sheriff. Also advise the city officers of pending weather. Don't take it for granted that EVERYONE KNOWS.

_____ Presiding Commissioner David Johnson	_____ Date
_____ District one Commissioner Ben Reed	_____ Date
_____ District Two Commissioner Jeff Tucker	_____ Date
_____ Emergency Management Director Tom Ryan	_____ Date