



POLICY FOR OUTDOOR WARNING SIREN SYSTEM

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this procedure is to establish the policies for the location, maintenance, operation, and use of the Outdoor Warning Siren System (OWSS) as provided by the St. Louis County Emergency Communications Commission (ECC).

2.0 LOCATION

- 2.1 Outdoor Warning Sirens will be placed with the goal of providing complete outdoor audible coverage within St. Louis County, using the minimum number of sirens.
- 2.2 When choosing locations for new sirens, first preference will be given to public rights-of-way, followed by the use of public property with easement from the associated governmental entity, and then by the use of private property with easement to St. Louis County Government.
- 2.3 Proposed siren locations must be at least 100' from residences and buildings. In addition, the proposed locations must be a safe distance from overhead power lines and tree branches, and adjacent to a roadway or paved surface that can be accessed by maintenance vehicles and bucket trucks. Exceptions require the mutual agreement of the Directors of the ECC and St. Louis County Emergency Management.

3.0 RELOCATION

- 3.1 The ECC will consider relocation of existing Outdoor Warning Sirens at the expense of the ECC when siren placement creates an unsafe condition or other unique or unusual circumstance.
- 3.2 Sirens may also be considered for relocation at the request of the host governmental entity or by a private party when:
 - A. The integrity of the siren network is maintained with no significant gaps in coverage; and
 - B. The proposed location meets the guidelines under Section 2.3. above for placement, and is acceptable to the ECC and to the host governmental entity and/or private party.
- 3.3 Unless other arrangements are negotiated the cost to relocate an existing Outdoor Warning Siren shall be borne by the ECC. Private entity or citizen request for relocation may be at the expense of the requestor.

4.0 MAINTENANCE

- 4.1 The routine and preventative maintenance, repair, and emergency removal and/or replacement of the OWSS and any of its components shall be the responsibility of the Field Services Section.
- 4.2 The ECC shall budget sufficient funds to cover routine maintenance and insurance coverage for the OWSS network.

5.0 OUTDOOR WARNING SIREN SYSTEM OPERATION

- 5.1 The St. Louis County Police Department, Bureau of Communications has the responsibility of activating the OWSS.
- 5.2 The "Alert" siren tone will be used only to signal a tornado warning.
- 5.3 The OWSS will be activated whenever the National Weather Service issues a tornado warning for any portion of St. Louis County.
- 5.4 The OWSS will be tested on the first Monday of every month at 11:00 a.m., weather permitting.

6.0 VOICE ANNOUNCEMENTS


- 6.1 The Voice Announcement, or "Public-Address", capability of the OWSS will be used only for emergency purposes, and only where direct and immediate action by the public is necessary (seek shelter, boil water, etc.). The voice-announcement capability will be tested as part of the monthly OWSS test (see Section 5.4).
- 6.2 Voice Announcements, or "Public-Address", shall be authorized by the St. Louis County Office of Emergency Management and will adhere to the policies set forth by that bureau.

7.0 SYSTEM INTERFACE TO PRIVATE SYSTEMS

- 7.1 The activation system for the OWSS may be interfaced to the activation system of private siren networks (i.e., colleges and universities, large industrial complexes, etc.) under the following conditions:
 - A. The Directors of the ECC and St. Louis County Office of Emergency Management jointly agree on the request for interface to the private system.
 - B. There will be no cost to the ECC or to St. Louis County; the interface implementation and continued maintenance of the private siren network and activation equipment will be the responsibility of the owner;
 - C. The "Alert" siren tone of the private siren system will be used only for tornado warnings, and for no other purpose;

D. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) acceptable between all interested parties is executed between the private system owner and the ECC.


Director, ~~Accred~~
Emergency Communications Network


Chairman,
St. Louis County Emergency
Communications Commission
11/10/16