

Best Practices for Outdoor Warning Sirens

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Outdoor warning (tornado) sirens have been used for citizen alerting for decades. While they can be effective tools in the warning process, several issues with policies and procedures in various communities can negate some of the benefits. Following the Joplin Missouri tornado of 2011, a group of meteorologists, social scientists, and emergency managers (part of the WAS*IS project) developed a “best practices” document. Based on feedback received after that release, a new version was published in June 2015. This document has suggested activation policies and testing routines, along with resources for more information. The American Meteorological Society’s Committee for Emergency Management, as well as the International Association of Emergency Management’s Climate, Weather, and Water Caucus have endorsed this document.

<http://skywatch.org/ows.pdf>