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## **CHANGE IN OUTDOOR WARNING SIREN ACTIVATION PROCESS**

In 2020, Fond du Lac County made a change in the process for activating outdoor warning sirens. Sirens activated through the Fond du Lac County Dispatch Center no longer simultaneously sound throughout the entire county when there is a tornado warning anywhere in the county, but instead will be activated if the outdoor warning siren is located within the area the tornado warning is issued. The sirens will only be activated for tornado warnings issued by the National Weather Service.

With severe weather season approaching, we want to remind everyone of the benefits and limitations of outdoor warning sirens. Outdoor warning sirens are meant to advise you of a tornado warning when you are outside in populated areas, but cannot provide specific information regarding the warning. "When someone hears an outdoor warning siren, they should immediately seek shelter and seek information", according to Bobbi Hicken, Fond du Lac County Director of Communications and Emergency Management.

Everyone is strongly encouraged to have multiple ways to receive weather alerts and should not rely on one notification process. NOAA weather radios, phone apps, television and radio media are just some of the ways to receive weather notifications. Outdoor warning sirens are not intended to be heard inside buildings and do not cover all areas of the county. For this reason, they should not be relied upon as a primary source of information.

With this process, it is possible for a siren to activate multiple times during a tornado warning. There is never an all-clear activation in Fond du Lac County, so if you hear the sirens multiple times, it means there is still a tornado warning in the area.

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