

Jeff from The Falls area has this question: *“Chief Jenks, yesterday the storm sirens went off. There was heavy rain, wind, and hail at the time but there wasn’t a tornado warning form the weather people at the time. Can you tell me why they went off?”*

Jeff,

The City’s outdoor warning system is not just for tornadoes. I emphasize the word “outdoor” because it is designed to notify people that are outside to take shelter. Yesterday, the weather warnings for Anna included 1” hail and 60 mph winds. Since people caught outdoors could be injured by 1” hail, accelerated by 60 mph winds (and loose property could be damaged or become projectiles), the sirens were activated. Since you heard them they were effective in making you take notice to the weather event that was imminent. Please tell your friends and neighbors about the purpose of the sirens and they are not just for tornadoes.

To further enhance your safety from weather related matters, the City also offers an automated warning system called “Code Red” (which is linked on the City’s web site). You can enter yourself to receive these warnings by going on the web and putting your information in. Once you get to the Code Red page, enter your data and then select which type of weather warnings you would like to receive a phone call about: Severe Weather (includes thunderstorms), Tornado, Flash Flood, or any combination of the three. Once you are in the system, it will call you every time the weather service issues a warning for our area. If you only want tornado warnings make sure that the appropriate box is checked and that the other weather boxes are unchecked.

If for some reason a person no longer wants to receive Code Red Weather warning calls, simply redial the number after you receive a phone call and follow the instructions in the menu to unsubscribe. You can also edit your Code Red entry by simply going back to the web site and reentering your data with the boxes you want checked. The system will change your settings to your latest entry.

Outdoor Warning Sirens Tested (weather permitting): First
Wednesday of the month @ noon

***Phone numbers: Emergency???? Dial 911.** To have a police officer sent to you in a non-emergency, call 972-547-5350. During normal business hours, the APD number is 972-924-2848.

If you have a question or comment, please email: kjenks@annatexas.gov