

Ask the Chief of the Anna Police: A weekly column allowing readers access to useful information about law enforcement issues in the Anna area.

This column is the personal opinion of Kenny Jenks and is based on his 29+ years of policing experience. It is not necessarily the official opinion of the City of Anna or the Anna Police Department. If you wish to Email, include your name and address in the correspondence. Your information will be edited before sending it to print.

Hello Readers,

I receive between 75-100 Emails each week from persons who would like to converse about the activities of the police in Anna and surrounding areas. I can't respond to or print all of them, but I do read them!

A very nice lady from Willow Creek sent the following comment to the City: ***Check the sirens. We can't hear them. We live in Willow Creek. Thanks***

You probably did not hear them because the sirens have not been activated in Anna the entire summer for weather, only for short tests on the first Wednesday of every month. Even if they were, it is an **outdoor** warning system. I emphasize the word "outdoor" because the system is designed to notify persons who are caught outdoors that severe weather is approaching and that they should take shelter. Sure, it will reach some people inside of their homes who are close by the siren locations (or more if the conditions are very quiet) but if you are not close to a siren location, do not count on being able to hear them inside of your home.

The City also offers an automated telephone notification system called "CodeRED" and you can opt into the weather-warning feature of the system. CodeRED Weather Warning is an early telephone warning system designed to automatically deliver targeted weather notifications for the immediate threats of severe thunderstorm warnings, flash flood warnings and tornado warnings within moments of being issued by the National Weather Service (NWS). CodeRED Weather Warning will deliver a pre-recorded alert message directly to the resident's phone number of choice in the projected geographic path of the severe weather. The system automatically sends these notifications 24 hours a day, 365 days a year hopefully providing each resident the time to prepare. This becomes even more critical if a tornado comes through our area during the night, when television and radio broadcasts are generally not being monitored.

To take advantage of this automated system, YOU MUST PHYSICALLY OPT-IN FOR CODE RED WEATHER. Sign up and choose which warnings you would like to receive, severe weather, flash floods, and/or tornado warnings. Go to www.annatexas.gov and use the Community Links drop down menu to access CodeRED. If you are not sure if you have signed up for the weather portion, go and sign up again and the system will replace your old entry with the new one.

Reminder: Outdoor Storm Sirens Tested (weather permitting)

First Wednesday of the month @ 12 noon.

***Phone numbers: Dial 911 in an emergency.** 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