

TOWN OF MINOCQUA

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NEW WARNING SIREN POLICY

Adopted by the Town of Minocqua on August 9, 2011

A warning siren is mounted above the fire department on the Minocqua Community Center building in downtown Minocqua. When activated, the warning siren sounds a loud and steady three-minute tone, easily distinguished from the town's daily "noon whistle" (approximately ten seconds long) and from the repeating up-and-down wail of the town's fire siren.

The Town Board of Supervisors deems it incumbent upon them to eliminate confusion and uncertainty with respect to use of the warning siren and to promote a proper sense of urgency and need for immediate action when the siren is heard.

With this in mind, Minocqua Town Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to adopt the following warning siren policy:

Effective immediately, the steady warning siren shall only be activated:

- ***When the National Weather Service has issued a tornado warning in which the Town of Minocqua lies within the warned area;***
- ***When a tornado or funnel cloud has been sighted within the Town of Minocqua;***
- ***When a tornado or funnel cloud has been sighted in a town immediately adjacent to Minocqua and poses a threat of striking the Town of Minocqua;***
- ***When a scheduled test is taking place.***

The warning siren shall be tested on the first Wednesday of each month at 9:00 A.M. during the months of April through October, inclusive. If severe weather is forecast or observed in the area, the monthly test will be postponed until the next scheduled test to avoid confusion.

It is also important for the public to be aware of the following information:

- Monthly tests of the warning siren are conducted to test the proper activation of the siren from the dispatch center and to familiarize citizens with the sound of the steady warning siren;
- Residents and visitors are advised to seek shelter immediately when they hear the steady warning siren (with the exception of scheduled testing, of course);
- Do not call the police department or emergency services (911) to ask why the warning siren is sounding;
- Tune to television stations or weather radio for information and instructions;
- There is no "all clear" signal;
- The warning siren is not intended to alert people who are indoors during a warning and should not be relied upon as a primary source of severe weather notification;
- It is strongly recommended that each residence, business, school, camp, church, etc., purchase a weather alert radio that is automatically activated during severe weather occurrences;
- Just because no warning has been issued or the warning siren has not been sounded does not guarantee safe weather conditions; weather prediction is an imperfect science and many types of storms, including wind shears and straight line winds, can cause severe property damage, personal injury and loss of life.