



Carver County Outdoor Warning Sirens Frequently Asked Questions



1. How many outdoor warning sirens are in Carver County?

There are currently 44 sirens in Carver County.

2. How are these sirens tested?

The Carver County Sheriff's Office 911 Communications Center tests/activates all sirens in Carver County at 1:00 pm on the first Wednesday of the month from March through October.

3. Whose responsibility is it to maintain these sirens?

The sirens and their associated equipment are purchased and maintained by cities within Carver County. One siren in Baylor Park in Norwood Young America is owned and maintained by Carver County.

4. How does Carver County receive severe weather warnings?

The Chanhassen National Weather Service contacts the State Warning Point (Minnesota State Patrol), who is then responsible for disseminating all watches and warnings to Carver County Sheriff's Office 911 Communications Center, except warnings for conditions generated within the county itself.

5. Outdoor warning siren activation in Carver County is based on the following criteria:



When a Tornado Warning is issued for Carver County by the National Weather Service

Sirens are activated for each Tornado Warning issued by the National Weather Service. It is possible for a new Warning to be issued before a previous Warning expires.



When the National Weather Service indicates wind speeds of 70 miles per hour or more



When a City or County Public Safety Official (Police, Fire) requests activation due to imminent danger to life and/or property. In this situation, Carver County Sheriff's Office 911 Communications Center also notifies the National Weather Service Office in Chanhassen.

For Your Safety

- **Carver County does not issue an “all-clear” tone from the outdoor sirens. Such a signal may be confusing to residents in the event of additional warnings.**
- **Outdoor warning sirens are meant to be heard outside. When sirens sound, residents should always seek shelter and tune to local weather information on radio, television, or NOAA weather radio for more information.**
- **When the sirens are activated, they will sound for four minutes and then stop. The threat of severe weather does not stop when the sirens stop! Residents should continue to shelter and stay tuned to local weather information on radio, television or NOAA Weather Radios for the duration of the warning period.**
- **If the siren sounds while you are in your vehicle, seek shelter immediately. The safest place to be is in a sturdy building, on the lowest level away from windows, with the most walls as possible between you and outside. If there is not a building nearby, and the tornado is approaching quickly, get as far away from the road and cars as possible and lie in a low area covering your head with your arms. Do not go under an overpass; the bridge could collapse or become a wind tunnel with flying debris**
- **Local TV stations, internet sites and mobile apps also have tools that can send warnings to your computer and cellular phone. NOAA weather radios are also a good tool to warn residents of severe weather, whether indoors or outside.**
- **Carver County residents can sign up to receive emergency alerts including severe weather warnings from the Carver County Citizen Alert System. To learn more and opt-in follow this link: [Carver County Citizen Alert System](#)**