



# TOWN OF VERNON FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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## VERNON PUBLIC WARNING SIREN SYSTEM

### - *FACT SHEET* -

#### I. Background

##### A. Warnings Save Lives

Timely and effective public warnings can save lives, reduce property losses and speed economic recovery. Public warning empowers residents by providing them with information they need during times of emergency to make informed decisions. The objective of a public warning system is to capture the attention of people at risk, to provide them with relevant and accurate information regarding the nature of the threat and to provide such information in time for protective actions to be taken. An effective public warning system is one that provides the ability for government authorities to communicate with residents to provide important information such as how to prevent and protect against disasters, and information to assist in recovery efforts.

#### II. Activation Policy

##### A. Purpose

The Town of Vernon's primary public warning system is the Vernon Public Warning Siren System. This system uses five (5) sirens strategically positioned throughout the Town. The primary purpose for this system is to alert the public of impending emergencies such as severe weather, environmental hazards, or national security threats. Information for the activation of the system can come from several sources including but not limited to the National Weather Service, state or federal agencies and local public officials.

##### B. Concept of Operations

The Vernon Public Warning Siren System is activated using state-of-the-art digitally secure radio technology that is controlled locally at the Vernon Police Department Dispatch Center or remotely by Chief Fire Officers and the Emergency Management Director. The system will be activated when the following conditions are present:

###### 1. Severe Weather –

- i. When it has been confirmed that "Hurricane Force" winds will be impacting the Town of Vernon and/or the National Weather Service has issued a Severe Weather/High Wind Warning indicating hurricane force winds. "Hurricane Force" winds are those winds monitored with gusts at 70+ mph.

- ii. A tornado has been visually confirmed and/or a tornado warning has been issued indicating that the Town of Vernon is in the path of an approaching tornado or whenever any reported tornado sighting within the Town is confirmed.
2. **Environmental Hazard** – A situation or state of events which poses a threat to the health or safety of the residents of the Town of Vernon, such as a major toxic chemical spill or gas leak.
3. **Civil Defense** - A situation defined by the Federal Government as a threat to national security and the safety of the American public.
4. **Emergency Management Director, Fire Chief and/or Police Chief Discretion** - A situation where the aforementioned individuals feel it necessary to activate the system to provide public warning to imminent danger.

### III. Public Information

Upon hearing the sirens, residents of the Town of Vernon have the following options to learn the nature of the emergency and the necessary steps to take:

1. Contact the Town of Vernon, Office of Emergency Management Information Line by calling (877) 762-7372 and pressing option #1.
2. Visit the Town of Vernon, Office of Emergency Management's website at [www.VernonPrepared.com](http://www.VernonPrepared.com).
3. Information may be available on the radio or television via the state's Emergency Alert System (EAS) depending upon the scope and nature of the emergency.

### IV. System Testing

In order to ensure that all the mechanical parts of the sirens are used regularly and that the sirens are working properly, the sirens are tested once a month. The sirens are tested on the first Saturday of each month at noon and each test lasts approximately three (3) minutes.

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