

TOWN OF MINOCQUA

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Effective August 9, 2011

TORNADO WARNING SIREN POLICY - TOWN OF MINOCQUA

Where is the Tornado Warning siren, and what does it sound like?

The 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.

Who can hear the siren?

The Tornado Warning siren is meant to alert residents, visitors and merchants in the most densely developed and populated area of town. How far it can be heard from downtown depends on weather conditions such as wind.

When is the Tornado Warning siren activated?

ONLY under one of the following circumstances:

- ⇒ When the National Weather Service has issued a Tornado Warning in which the Town of Minocqua lies within the warned area; OR
- ⇒ When a tornado or funnel cloud has been sighted within the Town of Minocqua; OR
- ⇒ 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; OR
- ⇒ During a scheduled monthly test.

What should people do when they hear the Tornado Warning siren?

SEEK SHELTER IMMEDIATELY! Since the warning siren only sounds in the event of a Tornado Warning for Minocqua or an actual tornado sighting, you must take action! The only exception is for scheduled monthly tests. For tornado preparedness information, visit <http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/tornadoes/during.asp>

When do monthly tests take place?

The Tornado Warning siren is tested on the first Wednesday of each month at 9:00 A.M. from 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 prevent confusion. The purpose of monthly tests is to test proper activation of the siren from the dispatch center and to familiarize citizens with the sound of the steady warning siren.

Is the Tornado Warning siren activated for other weather events?

No, the warning siren is ONLY activated for Tornado Warnings, or actual tornado sightings as noted above.

What else should the public know about the Tornado Warning siren policy?

- The Tornado Warning siren cannot alert people townwide and should not be relied upon as a primary source of alert for Tornado Warnings;
- Do not call the police department or emergency services (911) to ask why the warning siren is sounding; tune to television, weather radio or smartphone weather apps for information and instructions;
- There is no "all clear" signal;
- 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 straightline winds, can cause severe property damage, personal injury and loss of life.