Sirens are an “Outdoor” Warning System

Each year the National Weather Service and emergency management agencies get together and provide severe weather information to the public, emphasizing the fact that outdoor sirens are just that… an Outdoor Warning System. We still get calls telling us that the sirens can’t be heard inside the house.

Severe weather begins each spring in Kansas and we all need to be prepared any time of the day or night. The National Weather Service, emergency management, law enforcement, dispatch, and fire department personnel cannot notify every individual of the possibility of severe weather in their town. Norton County’s Civic Ready emergency notification system https://ks-nortoncounty.civicready.com, an all-hazards NOAA Weather Radio, local media outlets, and weather apps are your best sources for receiving severe weather alerts, warnings, and updates.

 Volunteer storm spotters, amateur radio operators, and first responders put their lives on the line when severe weather come into play. They do this because they care about the people in their communities and want to make sure everyone is given the best chance at survival. Storm spotters, emergency managers, and other volunteers relay severe weather reports to NWS Goodland. The National Weather Service in turn disseminates that information to the media and public through warnings, statements, and social media posts. Getting the word out to the public in a timely manner saves lives.

When severe weather threatens at night when most people are sleeping, it can be especially dangerous. Also, in the spring and summer, we cannot hear outdoor sirens over running air conditioners or lawn mowers. A NOAA Weather Radio with a back-up battery can make all the difference for you and your family.

Take responsibility and take protective action. If it appears that a severe thunderstorm is approaching your location, do not wait for the outdoor sirens. Take immediate action to protect your life and the lives of others in your home.