

## Watches & Warnings

**Tornado Watch** Issued by the National Weather Service when conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes in and close to the watch area. During the watch, people should be prepared to move to a place of safety if threatening weather approaches.

**Tornado Warning** Issued by the National Weather Service when a tornado is indicated by radar or sighted by spotters. People in the affected area should **seek safe shelter immediately**.

**Tornado Emergency** A Tornado Emergency is issued by the National Weather Service. It is not a new warning, but is used to highlight a confirmed tornado which is expected to be strong and violent. A Tornado Emergency means that significant, wide-spread damage with a high likelihood of numerous fatalities is expected to continue.

Remember, outdoor warning sirens are just that, outdoor warning. The sirens are meant to be heard outside to signal you to go indoors and tune your radio or television station to the local Emergency Alert System (EAS) Station.



TAKE  
COVER  
AND  
TUNE IN



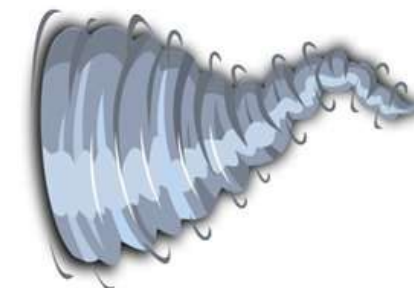
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[www.storycountyiowa.gov/ema](http://www.storycountyiowa.gov/ema)

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# Outdoor & Indoor Warning Systems

## What Do The Sirens Mean?

No matter what you are doing, any time you hear an outdoor warning siren sound, you should immediately seek shelter or take cover, and if possible turn on a radio or TV to a local station for more information and possible emergency instructions.

One of the most common and widely recognized methods of public outdoor warning is through the use of outdoor warning sirens.

They are used by local communities for a variety of purposes.

- **Testing-** 1st & 3rd Saturday of the month and 12 noon for most communities in Story County. City of Ames & ISU test sirens on the first Wednesday of the month at 10:00AM.
- **Severe Weather-** Story County will sound outdoor warning sirens for tornadoes and winds greater than 70mph and hail 1.75" (golf ball) or greater.

During emergencies residents will hear a steady signal of the outdoor warning sirens. When you hear the sirens, go inside

and tune your radio or TV to one of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) stations or your NOAA Weather Radio and listen for essential emergency information.



## Where to Listen for More Information?

**DO NOT CALL 911** or local fire or police agencies to ask why the sirens are sounding. If it is an emergency, they are busy getting equipment and resources to the emergency scene.

When you hear sirens sound in Story County, tune to your local Emergency Alert System (EAS) station for further information.

### Primary EAS stations for Story County

KASI 1430AM      KCCQ 105.1FM

WOI 640AM      WOI 90.1FM

WOI TV Channel 5

## NOAA Weather Radios

The NOAA Weather Radio is the primary indoor warning system. Like a smoke detector, NOAA Weather Radio waits in a standby mode until a watch or warning is issued.

The NOAA Weather Radio can be programmed for your local area or your favorite vacation spot. There are portable weather radios that can be used to supplement and outdoor warning system. NOAA Weather Radios can be purchased at most “big-box” stores.



## Take Cover!!!

To “take cover” means to go inside immediately. The sirens sound when it is not safe to be outside. Make sure that everyone in your family knows the safest place to be in your home during an emergency.

During a severe weather emergency a basement or other underground shelter is the safest place to be. Try to get under a heavy workbench or the stairs.

If you do not have a basement, stay on the first floor and put as many walls between yourself and the outdoors as possible. A closet or bathroom on an inside wall, or hallway on the lowest level of the house. Try to shelter away from windows.

If you live in a mobile home or trailer, **get out!!** Even a tied down a mobile home can be shattered. It is important to identify the closest safe place **before** an event. If you do not have a storm shelter in your park, learn where storm shelters are located in your community and have a plan on how you will get there.

If you are outside or in a car, get out of the car and inside a house or building. Do not try to outrun a tornado in your car. Your car be picked up and thrown by the tornado. If you are caught outside, crouch low in a ditch and cover your head with your hands.