



BENTONVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

800 S.W. "A" St.
Bentonville, AR 72712
Telephone: (479) 271-3151
Fax: (479) 271-5980

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Chief Dan White

A change in the "All Clear" tone will take effect this Friday when the City of Bentonville sounds its tornado sirens during the monthly test. For several years, the tornado siren "Alert" and "All Clear" tones have sounded basically the same with the only difference being the length of the sounding. The "Alert" sound has been a three minute steady blast of the siren, and the "All Clear" has been a 45 second steady blast. FEMA recommends a steady blast for the "Alert" sounding, and it is planned for Bentonville's "Alert" sound to remain the same.

Bentonville Fire Chief Dan White explained, "The type of siren we use has a limited ability to vary the tone. We use a motorized tornado siren that rotates on a pole, which tends to give us good sound distance, and not an electronic siren which would allow for more choices of tones. Our choices for tone changes basically are limited to causing the siren to have a steady tone, or some variation of an up and down tone. But, we need to make a change to a different "All Clear" tone so that people can more readily recognize whether they are hearing the tone to take cover, or the tone that tells them they are safe to come out of their sheltering places."

The “Alert” tone will continue to be the steady three minute blast, and the ensuing new “All Clear” tone will be changed to an undulating tone that features an up and down “fast wail” lasting approximately 45 seconds.

The regular monthly tornado siren test in Bentonville is done on the first Friday of the month at 1:00 p.m., weather permitting. Tornado sirens are intended to warn those who are outside, but if close enough to a siren, residents may hear them when inside certain buildings. All residents are encouraged to have a weather alert radio which will sound when the National Weather Service issues storm watches and warnings, and when weather is unstable tune to a TV channel that will have storm information.

For more information, please contact Chief Dan White at 479-271-3151.