Disaster Siren Information

KPEPC
Kanawha Putnam Emergency Planning Committee

What

A fully redundant outdoor and personal alerting and notification system that protects communities and citizens during natural (weather) or man-made (chemical, terrorist) disasters.

Why

The sirens will allow for emergency officials to target populations and to deliver specific messages. By increasing the public's ability to know what steps to take following an emergency, community resilience is enhanced.

Sounds

The electronic siren provides an excellent voice reproduction and an intense alert warning signal with continued emergency operations regardless of primary power outages. When the siren is activated, citizens will hear a steady siren tone, followed by a Voice Announcement, concluding with a steady siren tone.

Locations

There are over 55 disaster warning sirens located throughout Kanawha and Putnam Counties. These sirens are activated in the event of chemical manufacturing incidents, hazardous material transportation accidents and natural (weather) disasters. Nearly one-half of these sirens are capable of producing intense warning signal, live and digital voice messaging.

Tone/Voice Siren Locations:

Kanawha County

- Belle
- Capitol Complex (4)
- Charleston (2)
- Dunbar
- Glasgow
- Kanawha City
- Kanawha County Courthouse
- Mary C. Snow West Side Elementary
- Montgomery
- Nitro Market Place
- Nitro
- North Charleston
- South Charleston
- St. Albans
- WV State University
- Yeager Airport

Putnam County

- Eleanor
- Hurricane
- Poca
- Teays Valley
- Winfield

Testing

The disaster sirens are tested at noon the 4th Wednesday of each month. The siren will emit a steady tone followed by the Pre-Recorded Test Message, concluding with a steady siren tone.

Examples of Pre-Recorded Messages

- This is the monthly test of the County siren system, no action is necessary.
- There has been an emergency requiring a shelter in place, Please go indoors, close all doors and windows and turn on your television, radio or alert radio for further information.
- There is a severe weather emergency, Please turn on your television, radio or alert radio for further information.
- An evacuation of this area has been requested, please monitor your radio or weather alert radio for further information.

Action

Should you hear the disaster sirens at any time other than the monthly test, go indoors and turn on the radio/TV for further information. A siren tone is initiated before and after the pre-recorded or live message. One of the challenges of tone only sirens is the ability to effectively communicate a specific message to the public.

Contact Information

Kanawha County

Charleston Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management
(304) 348-8130

Kanawha Co. Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management
(304) 357-0966 • kanawha.us/oem

Kanawha County Metro 911
Non-emergency: (304) 744-6843

Putnam County

Putnam County Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management
(304) 586-0247

Other

Kanawha Putnam
Emergency Planning Committee
304-414-3600 • www.kpepc.org

For All Emergencies
911

Supported with funds provided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the WV SAA.

Emergency Alert Radio & Television Stations

Radio Stations

WCHS (580 AM)

WCAW (680 AM)

WKWS (96.1 FM)

WVAF (99.9 FM)

WBES (95.4 FM)

WQBE (950 AM and 97.5 FM)

WVSR (102.7 FM)

WSCW (1410 AM)

WKAZ (107.3 FM)

Television Stations

WSAZ CH 3

WCHS CH 8

WVAH CH 11

WOWK CH 13

All local television stations will broadcast emergency information as will cable systems. Importantly, the information will NOT be broadcast on satellite-based services that do not carry local programming.