



SEVERE WEATHER WARNING SIRENS

The City of Heath will be audibly testing its severe weather warning sirens on every Wednesday.

The tests will be at 12:15pm
with the rest of Licking County.

The audible test will last approximately 2 minutes.

***** Read the article below about severe weather
(courtesy of Jeff Walker, Director of Licking
County Emergency Management)***

Severe Weather... Are You Ready?

What is your answer to the question? We are well into the summer of 2009, enjoying many outdoor activities and travel. During June in Licking County we have had four severe thunderstorm warnings, one tornado warning, and part of the county experienced some damage due to heavy rains, straight-line winds, and lightning on the evening of June 25, 2009.

What steps did you take when the tornado warning was announced by the National Weather Service and the Severe Weather Sirens sounded at 6:45pm on June 19th? Let's take a look at the steps that are designed to save lives.

1. **Listen** to local news or the National Weather Service to stay informed about the weather.
2. **Know** your community warning system. Licking County will sound the severe weather warning sirens for 3 cycles, or 3 minutes, with an up and down sound and seven minutes off between soundings. The sirens will not go off again until an all clear is sounded which is a one minute steady sound and then off. *The seven minutes off is required by the siren manufacturer to prevent the siren from overheating.*
3. **Pick a safe room** in your home where household members and pets may gather during severe weather such as a tornado. This should be a basement or an interior room on the lowest floor with no windows.
4. **Practice** periodic tornado drills so that everyone knows what to do if a tornado is approaching.
5. **Continue listening** to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio for updated information and instructions. Resume normal activities when the "all clear" is sounded and announced.

Licking County activates the severe weather sirens for an actual incident once or twice per calendar year. The system is tested each Wednesday at 12:15pm.

Many times we receive calls that tell us the sun is shining, why are the sirens sounding. Please remember two things:

1. It takes less than 15 minutes for a severe storm to cross the county and we believe that every resident needs the maximum amount of time to protect themselves and their families.
2. Lightning that accompanies severe weather strikes when the sun is shining as well as when it's cloudy. Recently, a young boy, in another state, was hit and killed by lightning when the sun was shining.

Our goal is to prevent unnecessary loss of lives in Licking County. We encourage all citizens to use the times when the sirens are activated to practice good safe habits and follow your home safety plan.