

The Indiana Department of Public Safety issued the following statewide outdoor warning siren test alert:

Statewide Outdoor Warning Siren Test

Indianapolis – As part of Severe Weather Preparedness Week March 18-24, 2012, the Department of Public Safety Division of Homeland Security (DHS), in cooperation with the National Weather Service (NWS) and other partners has selected Wednesday, March 21, 2012 as the date for the Statewide Tornado Drill. This will be the fifteenth annual drill of this type involving a test of the communications and warning capabilities within the State. During this drill the NWS will send a Tone Alerted warning message over the NOAA Weather Radios. DHS will also be setting off the outdoor warning sirens. Should actual severe weather be a threat on Wednesday, March 21st, the test will be held on Thursday, March 22nd.

There will be two drills initiated this year by the NWS on March 21st. The purpose of these tests is to allow each county to test the warning sirens in a simulated emergency situation and to provide the opportunity for businesses and schools to test their procedures for severe weather incidents. The first test will be initiated at 10:15 am, and the second test will be initiated at 7:35 pm. The earlier test is primarily for the benefit of school participation and the majority of the workforce who are at their place of employment at that time. The later test will allow families the opportunity to practice their own personal safety measures within their home.

Remember that outdoor warning sirens are for outdoor warning only. With 97% of our community covered, you may not hear the siren inside your home or business. It may not wake you up during the night so therefore we are encouraging citizens to prepare themselves for severe weather by building a kit that includes a NOAA Weather Radio, making a plan for them and their family, and staying informed through the NWS and our local media partners.

According to the NWS, Indiana averages 21 tornadoes a year. Indiana had a record 72

tornadoes last year alone. Tornadoes do occur year round, as seen recently in Southern Indiana, but are most likely from April to June.

For additional information visit our website at www.indy.gov/dhs and www.indy.gov/dps.

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