

Outdoor Warning System



As part of Northwestern State University's emergency notification system, the university has two outdoor warning sirens on the main campus in Natchitoches. The outdoor warning devices are located near Dodd Hall on Caspari Street, and the Equine Center on Tarlton Drive.

These public address speakers / sirens are designed to be heard **outdoors only**. They are not intended to be heard by persons within the buildings on campus. See below for alternative notification methods.

In the event of an emergency which urgently threatens the safety of persons outdoors, the University may sound the sirens. The **alert tones are very loud and distinct** and should be easily heard by anyone who is outdoors on the main campus.

The alert tone may / may not be followed by voice instructions. Regardless if you can comprehend the voice instructions, the default action anytime the siren is sounded is to: **Take shelter in the nearest building and seek further information.**

Examples of situations when the warning system may be sounded are as follows:

- Weather Emergencies:
 - Tornado Warning
 - Severe Thunderstorm Warning
 - Flash Flood Warning
- Other Emergencies:
 - Dangerous Situation
 - Hazardous Condition
- Administrative Announcements:
 - Urgent Announcement
 - All Clear
 - Testing

Law enforcement actions, such as the response to an active shooter, may or may not necessitate the sounding of the sirens. Emergency Management will follow the direction of the Northwestern State University Police Department in regards to emergency notification of any law enforcement activity.

The *NSU Emergency Outdoor Warning System Guidelines* serves as the University's policy document guiding the system's usage. This document is in progress, and will be continually updated. It will include the sirens and the lightning system. In the near future, the EHS Website will be updated with siren sounds, so that you can familiarize yourself with the sounds of the system. The siren system will also be tested on a monthly basis, so that we can ensure that the system is working properly.

The siren system was designed and installed by Federal Signal Corporation, in conjunction with the City of Natchitoches. The siren system was paid for with funds from the Natchitoches Parish 911 Commission. The City of Natchitoches has 5 other sirens that work in conjunction and separately from the sirens located on the Northwestern State University campus.