



Sandwich IL Emergency Management Agency

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Tom Ciciora—Director

Regarding Outdoor Warning Siren Testing

This is the complete portion of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act regarding outdoor warning sirens:

(20 ILCS 3305/12) (from Ch. 127, par. 1062) Sec. 12. Testing of Disaster Warning Devices. The testing of disaster warning devices including outdoor warning sirens shall be held only on the first Tuesday of each month at 10 o'clock in the morning or during exercises that are specifically and expressly approved in advance by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. (Source: P.A. 92-73, eff. 1-1-02.)

IEMA has clarified this to SEMA as stating that the Act does not mandate testing at all. The cited Section of the Act serves to restrict testing to the first Tuesday of the month, or as approved in advance by IEMA. Let's stipulate right here that periodic siren testing is a Best Practice, coupled with rigorous maintenance by qualified technicians.

SEMA chooses not to test sirens on a first Tuesday when The National Weather Service Storm Prediction Center places the area in any defined Risk zone for severe weather on that day. Pursuant to the restrictions in the Act, we do not test on the next following good weather day. We do this so if the sirens are activated on a day with predicted severe weather, the public can be assured that it's for an actual hazard. No regulations, laws or statutes are violated if we don't test on a first Tuesday.

Please contact us with any comments or if you'd like further clarification.

NEW – 8 JUL 2022