

## **Alva to Test Storm Sirens Monthly Beginning April 4<sup>th</sup> 2012**

The City of Alva's Storm warning siren system currently incorporates 6 sirens which are designed to alert residents who are outdoors.

Storm Sirens (one long blast for 60 seconds) are activated when:

A tornado warning has been issued for a portion of Woods Co. that includes the City of Alva

When a storm spotter, fire fighter, or police officer sees a tornado

Winds 70 mph. or greater are approaching

The Sirens may also be blown for a fire: (several up-down-up cycles) to muster firemen to fight a fire if other means of summoning are inoperable or unsuccessful.

The system is only activated for the conditions listed above. **There will not be an all clear blown at the expiration of the tornado warning.**

Residents should be mindful that the storm siren is an outdoor warning system and is not designed to signal a tornado warning to an entire community indoors. The storm siren warning system should not be a family's only warning system. Residents are reminded that when severe weather is forecast for the area the best source of information is a radio, television, or weather radio station.

A test activation of the system occurs the first Wednesday of each month at 12:00 noon. The system will not be activated for a test if there is a threat of severe weather for the area.

**Please do not call 9-1-1 for weather information when you hear the sirens sound. Instead take immediate shelter and listen to a radio, television, or weather radio station for further information. (During severe weather it is especially important that 9-1-1 lines remain open for emergency use.)**

Citizens should have a storm emergency plan in place consisting of a pre determined place to shelter from an approaching storm. For more information on severe weather and where to shelter see:

<http://www.fema.gov/hazard/tornado/index.shtm>