



Portable warning siren in Joplin, Mo.

## Region H Outdoor Warning Siren Working Group



### ***Vision***

***Establish common guidelines for activation of outdoor warning sirens throughout Region H to protect the lives of citizens.***

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## **549 fatalities from tornadoes in 2011 The deadliest year since 1936**

### **The problem:**

The public has become desensitized to sirens.

- For every 10 tornado warnings issued, one results in a confirmed tornado.
- Sirens are used for non-emergency situations (noon whistle, etc.).
- It is unclear what siren activation means – criteria differs significantly by jurisdiction.

### **The goal:**

- Address desensitization by reducing false alarms.
- Develop standards for when to activate outdoor warning sirens.

The Working Group will develop a written protocol that will include standardized activation criteria, continuous threat warning guidance, standardized testing protocol, guidance on siren deployment and system design.

When complete, county and local jurisdictions can use the document as they choose. It will be regularly reviewed and revised. A public education campaign will be conducted to improve public response to warning siren activation.

The document will provide the jurisdiction with evidence-based, defensible action when subject to media, public or government scrutiny.