



# Outdoor Warning System

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Burleson City Council  
May 5, 2025

# Discussion on Outdoor Warning Activation

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- We are in the middle of severe weather season.
- Explain the purpose and activation criteria of the Outdoor Warning System (OWS).
- Clarify the city's policy and procedures for OWS activation.
- Address recent community concerns regarding siren activation.
- Reinforce the commitment to proactive, timely emergency notifications.



# What is the OWS?

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- Network of 11 strategically placed outdoor sirens
- Designed to alert individuals outdoors during life-threatening events
- Part of a multi-layered alert system (Everbridge (BTX Alert), NOAA Weather Radios, local media, etc.)
- Voice component removed (2023) for safety reasons
- One tone to signal action, take shelter and seek information



# Understanding the OWS

Sirens are OUTDOOR warning tools , not meant to be heard inside

When sirens sound:

Go indoors and seek additional information (TV, radio, weather apps, city social media)

If the siren stops:

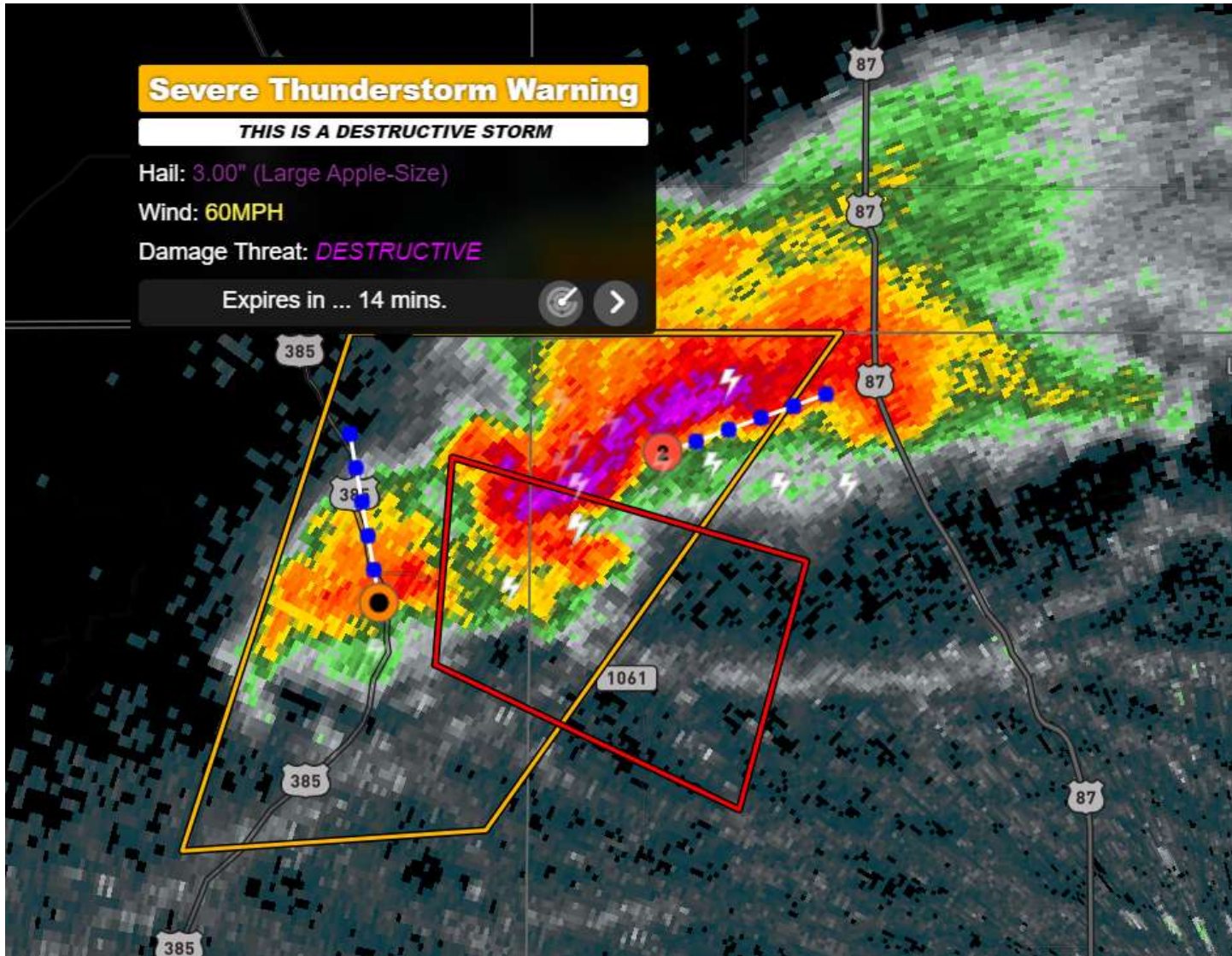
It does NOT mean the threat is over

Always rely on official sources for an all-clear

Sirens will sound for 3 minutes per activation



# 2018 NCTCOG Activation Criteria



**Tornado Warning** issued by the National Weather Service

**Trained storm spotter** report of a tornado

**Hail measuring 1.5"** or greater

**Winds of 70 mph** or higher

Other outdoor emergencies as determined by public safety officials

Burleson must be named in an NWS Polygon to be activated.

# KNOW YOUR OUTDOOR WARNING SYSTEM

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outdoor warning sirens are strategically placed around Burleson.



Sirens are **NOT** meant to be heard indoors, they are for **OUTDOOR** warning purposes.



A siren signals to seek shelter inside and seek additional information.



If a siren stops, it **DOES NOT** mean the threat has ended.

## WHEN DOES BURLESON ACTIVATE THE OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS?

- Tornado Warning issued by the National Weather Service
- Trained Storm Spotter Report of a Tornado
- Hail 1.5" or larger in diameter
- Winds of 70 mph or greater
- Other Outdoor Emergencies



# Activation Criteria Background

Burleson follows 2018 NCTCOG criteria (adopted via Minute Order 879-08-2018)

Updated the 2012 criteria, hail threshold (from 1.25" to 1.5") helps reduce false activations

Aligns Burleson with regional practices across DFW

Helps maintain public trust and alert reliability



# Activating the OWS

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**Automatic Activation:** Triggers when the National Weather Service issues a *Tornado Warning* for Burleson.

**Manual Activation:** Required for all other emergencies and must be initiated from either the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) or the Public Safety Communications Office.

# System Monitoring & Testing

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Real-time monitoring and decision-making supported by:

- Radar Monitoring
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) ArcGIS Dashboard
- National Weather Service (NWS) Chat 2.0
- Volunteer Spotters

## **Outdoor Warning System Testing**

Monthly audible siren test: First Wednesday at 1:00 PM (weather permitting)

Daily silent test conducted at 8:15 AM.

Daily reports sent to Office of Emergency Management



# System Modernization Update

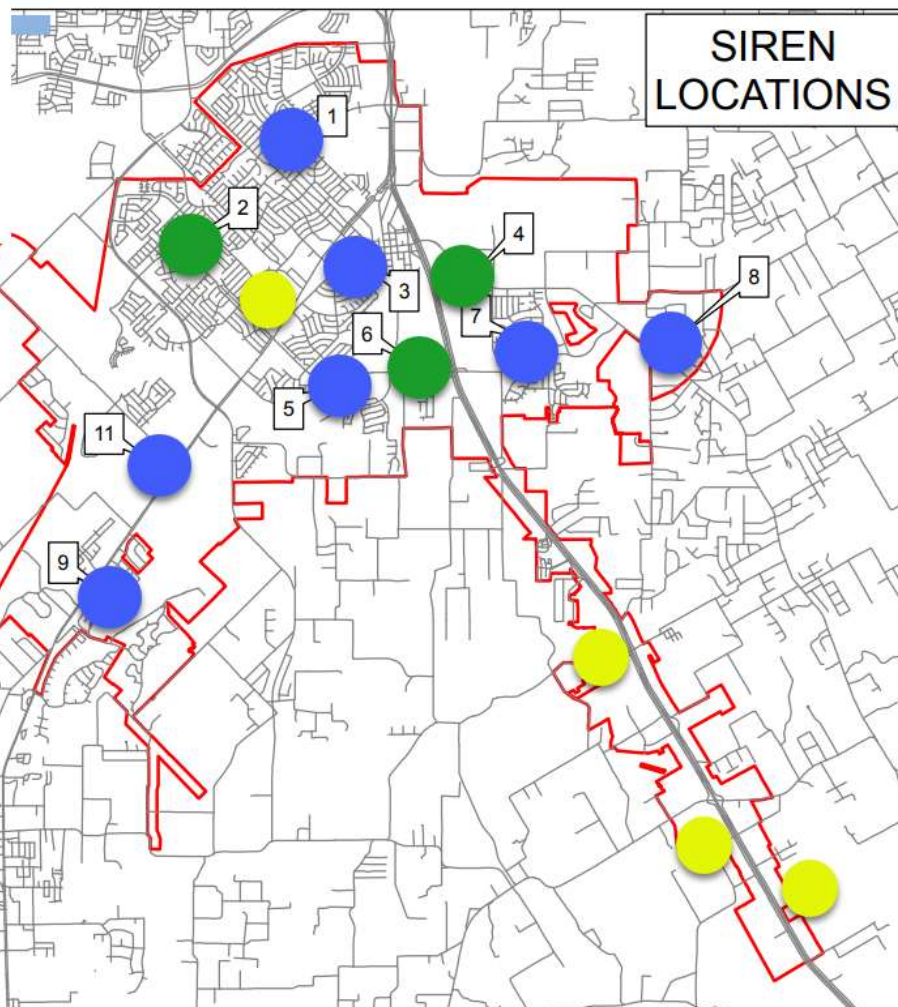
Replacing the 20+ year-old legacy system with modern siren technology

**Project includes:**

- All 11 existing sirens replaced
- 4 of the 11 were replaced in 2024
- 5 new sirens added to fill coverage gaps (Map on Next Slide)
- Enhances alerting in parks, neighborhoods, and growth areas
- Guided by sound modeling and population growth data
- Commander One software improves methods of activation
- Maintenance contract to ensure the cities investment is well maintained and working properly

Project scheduled to be complete Summer 2025





# Expanding Coverage

## Host Locations For New Installs:

- Burleson ISD
- B&W Wrecker
- Hayes and Stolz
- Bethesda Water Supply

Green- 2024 Replacement

Blue- Replacement

Yellow- New Install

# BTX Alert

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Mass Notification System for emergencies and critical community updates

Delivers alerts via text, email, voice call, and Everbridge app

Covers threats like severe weather, road closures, utility disruptions, evacuations, and more

Residents can customize alert preferences by type and location

Trusted platform used by public safety and emergency management nationwide

Free to sign up at [www.burlesontx.com/BTXAlert](http://www.burlesontx.com/BTXAlert)

Enhances community preparedness and situational awareness







# Public Education & Outreach

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Continued outreach to explain:

- Activation Criteria
- What actions to take
- Why you might not hear them indoors
- Why we moved away from "the voice"

Promoting BTX Alert mobile alerts

Collaborating with other departments

311, Communications, and Parks and Rec



# Seeking Council Direction

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Confirm whether the current Outdoor Warning System (OWS) activation policy reflects council expectations and desired community outcomes.

Request guidance on any adjustments needed to better balance public safety, policy compliance, and community concerns.



# Questions?

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