



# Anoka County

## COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

Emergency Communications Center / 911

To Whom It May Concern,

The Anoka County Emergency Communications Center (ECC) siren system update is moving forward with software and equipment updates at the ECC. There are hardware updates needed on each pole. These updates will be scheduled by your cities through Embedded Systems. Embedded Systems will bill each city individually for services.

The cost per pole for the updated hardware including installation is \$995. Siren boxes above 10 feet may require a bucket truck for access. If a bucket truck is needed your city will incur additional costs. The hardware being updated is the Printed Circuit Board (PCB) as well as some electrical connectors. Each board has a 12-month warranty. We acknowledge budgetary concerns so we understand some of these installations may be delayed into the fiscal year 2025.

It was explained previously but the current software and hardware at ECC and on the poles has been in service since the mid-1980s. Due to the age of the equipment, obtaining parts to repair and maintain the equipment are becoming obsolete and/or unobtainable.

An updated PCB will need to be installed in each siren. During this transition period Anoka County ECC will be transmitting using the old protocol that the existing boards operate on as well as the new protocol. After the transition period has been completed Anoka County ECC will be switching over to the new protocol and the old boards will be rendered nonfunctional and will no longer be able to receive commands from Anoka County ECC.

Utilizing the new software protocol for alerting will allow Anoka County ECC the ability to alert more accurately and effectively. The new software allows ECC staff to utilize the National Weather Service (NWS) polygons for storm warning alerts. Sirens located within those NWS polygons will sound alerting those within and near the polygon. Old protocol generally alerted the entire county of Anoka regardless of the location of the NWS polygon.

Contact Orrin McGill [omcgill@embedsys.com](mailto:omcgill@embedsys.com) with hardware installation questions.

Thank you for working with our ECC and Embedded Systems during this transition period.

Contact me with any other questions.

Sincerely,

Kari L. Morrissey  
Assistant Director – Emergency Communications

**Emergency Dispatching for Sheriff, Police and Fire Departments in Anoka County**

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