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ALLEN COUNTY OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS

Local policies and procedures and the need for alert system improvements

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**CAN YOU
HEAR A
WARNING
SIREN INSIDE
YOUR HOME?**

Outdoor warning siren network purpose

- Alert people outside to seek more information about dangerous weather conditions
 - Locally: Tornadoes



Not designed to:

- Alert, awaken people inside structures
- Communicate specific information
- Alert to other severe weather conditions



Allen County systems

- Joint city-county system
 - Operated by Consolidated Communications Partnership (911 dispatch)
- New Haven system
 - Operated by City of New Haven
 - Activated by County and/or New Haven

**National Weather
Service provides City,
County information
about weather
watches, warnings**



AC Homeland Security warning activation policy: Tornadoes

1. National Weather Service Radio Alert: **Tornado warning issued for any part of Allen County**
2. International Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (INLETS): **Tornado warning message for Allen County**
3. Trained spotter/first responder: **Tornado on ground AND causing damage**

Allen County activation procedures



Hazardous Weather Annex Appendix A - Dispatch Procedures

Allen County Preparedness System
Response Framework

July 2015
Updated - January 2016

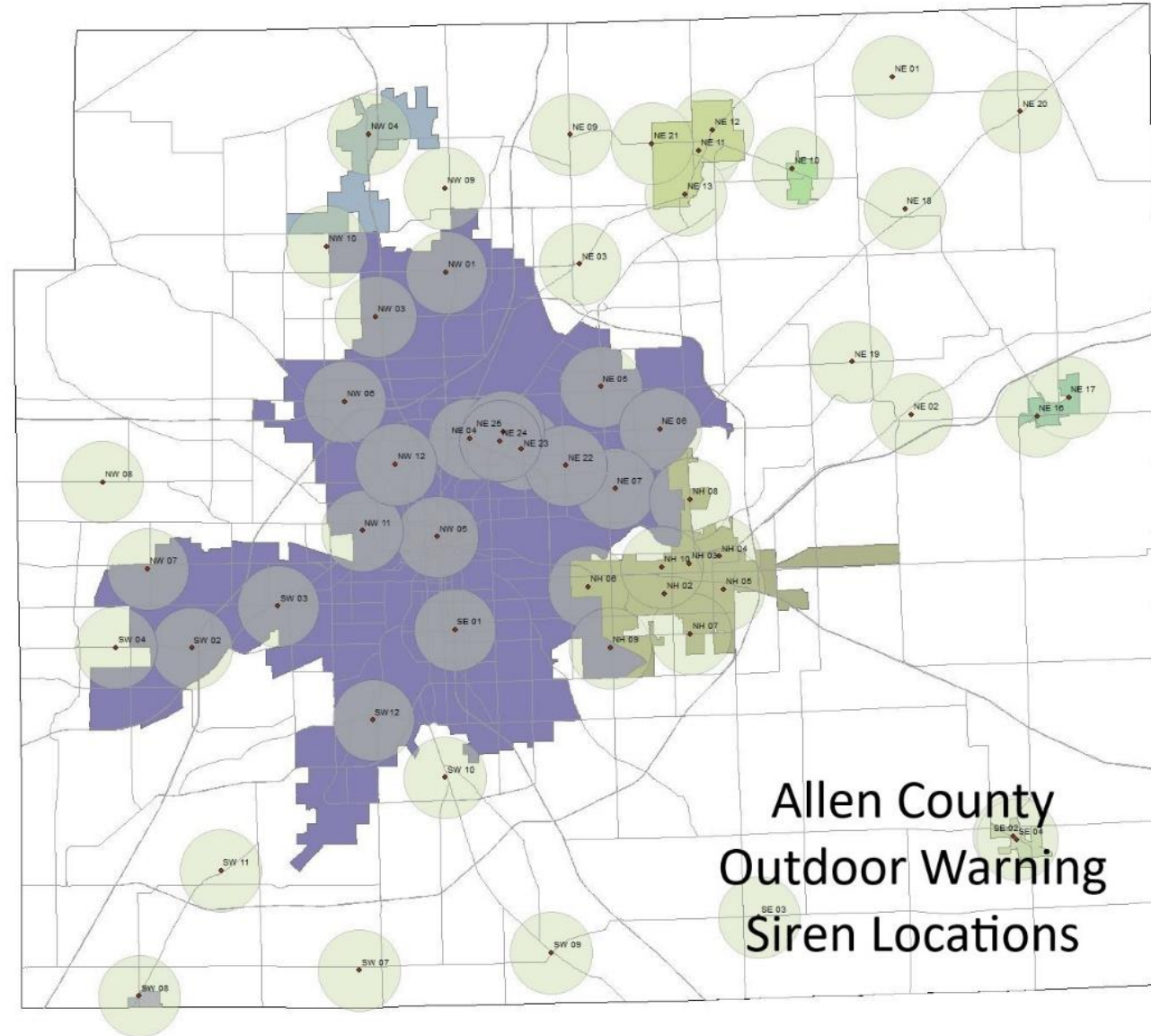
- Alert first responders via radio
- Activate countywide system
 - Sirens operate 3-5 minutes
 - Not duration of warning
 - No “all-clear” signal
- Monthly test

One county, one system

- Originally designed as civil alert system
 - Backed into weather alerts
- Whole system activated
- No geographic segmentation



Allen County warning siren locations



CHALLENGE
AHEAD:
**AGING SYSTEM,
RADIO
FREQUENCY
CHANGE**

Another flaw in the human character is that everyone wants to build and nobody wants to do maintenance.

–Kurt Vonnegut

Costs

- **Necessary signal upgrades:**
\$825,000 to \$2 million
 - Switch from VHF to 800 MHz
 - No additional sirens

Who pays for maintenance?

- Ongoing maintenance in no unit's budget
 - City?
 - County?
 - Township?
- Tax caps create limits on tax rate increases

Survey feedback:

How do you use outdoor warning sirens, get information about severe weather?

Questions?

