



## What is an Outdoor Warning System?

The Outdoor Warning Systems are known by many as “tornado sirens” or just “sirens”. However, it is important to understand that the Outdoor Warning System is designed for all hazards. As the name implies, the system is designed for people that are outdoors. Those that are indoors may not be able to hear the OWS for various reason (radio or television is on, vacuum cleaner going, etc.). The OWS should only be used as a **supplemental** warning tool for individuals. OWS can be used to alert citizens of tornadoes or severe thunderstorm warning.



The Town of Prosper’s Outdoor Warning system was placed into operation on October 1st, 2005. The system currently incorporates 8 sirens which are designed to alert residents who are outdoors of the immediate approach of a tornado or severe thunderstorm warning.

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. We will instead perform a silent test, which is a short quiet audible test that lasts a few seconds. We conduct this test to ensure the system is operating and functional.

The system is only activated for the conditions listed below. The system does not have the capability to sound an “all clear” signal at the expiration of the warnings. Whenever residents hear the Outdoor Warning Sirens sounding in Prosper, they should immediately take cover in an appropriate shelter. Residents are encouraged to monitor a local radio or local television station providing weather coverage in order to stay informed on the storm’s path and notification of the expiration of the warnings.

Residents should be mindful that the Outdoor Warning System is an outdoor warning system and is not designed to signal a warning to an entire community INDOORS. The Outdoor 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 commercial radio or local television station (See our [website](#) for more information).

Citizens should have a storm emergency plan in place and practice the plan regularly. [KnoWat2Do](#) website can help you develop an emergency plan. A portable battery operated radio or programmable weather alert radio should be incorporated into the plan.

Please do not call 9-1-1, fire department or police department when you hear the Outdoor Warning System unless you have an emergency. Instead take immediate shelter, listen to a radio, local television or weather radio station for further information. Calls to these numbers asking for weather details create the potential for true emergency calls being delayed. During severe weather, it is especially important for 9-1-1 lines be available for emergency response.

For more information on the Prosper Outdoor Warning System, emergency response planning or for help in developing a storm emergency plan for your family, please contact the Prosper Fire Department, Office of Emergency Management at (469) 207-4731 or visit our [website](#).

## **When are the Outdoor Warning Sirens activated?**

The Warning System shall be activated upon a credible report of a tornado in or around the Town of Prosper. Such reports include but are not limited to: a report of a warning issued by the National Weather Service to activate the Warning System, a report by a police or fire unit of a tornado, or a report by a storm spotter affiliated with the Collin or Denton County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (SKYWARN).

Observed hail of 1.5" in diameter or greater. The size of the hail that warrants OWS activation may be adjusted at the discretion of local officials in the event of a special situation, such as a large outdoor gatherings where the potential for injury is increased

Destructive winds in excess of 70 mph (or higher).

Other emergencies as directed by the Emergency Management Director or EMC

## **What should I do when the Outdoor Warning System sounds?**

GO INSIDE AND STAY INSIDE - Take shelter in interior portions and on lower floors of buildings. Stay away from windows and rooms with long roof spans.

TAKE NECESSARY COVER - If outside seek inside shelter. If shelter is not available, lie flat in a ditch, ravine, or depression. Do not get under an overpass or bridge.

LISTEN - Listen to your local radio or local television station for information.