



# County of Hamilton



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## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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To All Media Outlets:

Hamilton County EMA, under the authority and approval of the Hamilton County EMA Executive Committee, has adopted a new siren activation policy, outlined below. We have dropped the activation of the sirens during a "Severe Thunderstorm Warning during a Tornado Watch criteria". This new policy is consistent with the surrounding counties here in our region, with the exception of Clermont County (they are in the process of reviewing their policy as well). Here is the new policy:

### SIREN ACTIVATION CRITERIA 2011

#### **Tornado Warning:**

When issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) of a TORNADO WARNING for Hamilton County, the warning sirens will be activated on a county-wide basis by the county's primary control point using the steady tone. Warnings issued by the NWS for Hamilton County are based on severe weather occurrences observed in or approaching Hamilton County.

#### **Report of a Tornado or Funnel Cloud Sighting:**

Upon confirmation of an actual sighting of a tornado with a public safety official from the jurisdiction making the report, the warning sirens will be activated on a county-wide basis using the steady tone.

#### **Hazardous Material Release:**

Sirens may be activated at the request of the incident commander during a hazardous material release. The siren activation should be accompanied by an Emergency Alert System (EAS) activation, which can only be authorized by the Sheriff or the Emergency Management Director. Press releases, and the activation of the Codespear system will be accomplished as soon as possible, to advise the public regarding proper actions to take during the emergency. Proper actions could be to evacuate, or to "Shelter in Place".

#### **Other:**

There may be other severe weather or emergency issues where, at the discretion of the duty officer, it may be necessary to activate the sirens to warn the public to take appropriate actions. Anytime this action takes place, appropriate information will be immediately relayed to all media outlets for dissemination to the public.

Michael C. Snowden  
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