

The City of Hondo Outdoor All-Hazard Emergency Warning Siren System to enter service on Saturday, August 3, 2007

The installation of the Outdoor All-Hazard Emergency Warning Siren system has been completed and we will begin regular testing of the system on Saturday, August 3. A test of the system will be conducted on Saturday, at noon, for six continuous weeks and then on the first Saturday of the month thereafter. The system will sound an alert tone at 12 noon that will last for approximately 2 minutes. A total of four sirens have been installed; one located at Spatz and Avenue Y, one located at 22nd Street and Avenue W, one located at 27th Street and Avenue G, and the final one being located on the 1300 block of Avenue B.

The system is designed to deliver an alert tone to the residents of Hondo in the event of an emergency. Except for the testing time on Saturdays, upon hearing these sirens, you should immediately tune your television to Channel 12, KSAT, or your AM radio to AM 1460, KCWM, to receive official information. City officials have in place an agreement with these two stations to provide emergency information to the residents of Hondo anytime the sirens are activated. We ask that you continue to call 911 to report any emergencies, but do not call 911 to request information on why the sirens have been activated. Some of the reasons the emergency warning sirens would be activated include; tornado warnings, flood warnings, train accidents or derailments, chemical or biological emergencies, hazardous materials spills, or contaminated drinking water. You can be assured that any time the sirens are activated; a serious situation exists that requires your immediate attention.

As was clearly demonstrated during the Hurricane Katrina disaster, as well as the recent flood event in nearby D'Hanis, it is critical that the local government be able to provide crucial warning information to its citizens, as quickly as possible, thereby possibly saving many lives. This is the main reason that we have installed the Outdoor All-Hazard Emergency Warning Siren system in our city. Additionally, being personally prepared for an emergency may save your life or the life of a family member. We strongly encourage our citizens, young and older, to be personally prepared in the event of an emergency. We strongly recommend that you visit these two emergency preparedness websites, www.redcross.org and www.ready.gov, each providing a wealth of information on preparing you and your family for an emergency. These sites provide extensive information on how you can develop a personal family plan in response to an emergency, what items you should store for possible emergencies, and how you will communicate with other family members in the event of a wide-scale emergency.

If you have any questions on this information, please contact Timothy D. Fousse, Emergency Management Coordinator at 830-426-3810, or via e-mail at tfousse@hondo.net or City of Hondo at 830-426-3378.

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