
July 1, 2013
PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

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**EMERGENCY TORNADO WARNING SIRENS
INSTALLED AND TO BE TESTED AT NOON
ON JULY 2ND**

In February of 2013, as a direct result of the April 2011 tornado, Spalding County was awarded a Federal Grant for the purchase and installation of two Tornado Warning Sirens. These sirens have been placed at the Blalock and Norton Fire stations. These two locations were chosen due to their proximity to the historical path of these types of storms. The installation of sirens in this path, supplements our FirstCall Emergency Alert System. The FirstCall Emergency Alert System was implemented on March 30, 2012 and helped Spalding County to become 'Storm Ready' certified by the National Weather Service.

To obtain "Storm Ready" designation by the National Weather Service, a County warning point must operate under the following criteria:

- Operate 24 hours a day
- Have warning reception capability
- Offer warning dissemination capability
- Have the ability and authority to activate local warning system(s)

These sirens are currently operational and are integrated into the Counties 800MHz radio system. They are designed to be automatically activated by a National Weather Service Tornado Warning, affecting Spalding County. The sirens have an audible range of approximately one mile in all directions. The siren will be automatically tested by the National Weather Service at noon on the first Wednesday of each month. In preparation for the testing, Spalding County Emergency Management Personnel will manually activate the sirens at noon on July 2nd. The Spalding County Office of Homeland Security will be providing ongoing education for the community and public safety personnel on expectations of the system and procedures for citizens receiving these alerts. For additional questions, please contact the Spalding County Communications System Manager at 770-467-4253 and / or the Spalding County Office of Homeland Security at 770-228-2129 during normal business hours.

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