



December 9, 2009

Franklin County Outdoor Warning Sirens Now Number 172, a Record

Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security (FCEM&HS) recently updated the jurisdictions it serves on the status of outdoor warning sirens across the county. The update by agency Director Michael R. Pannell, emailed Dec. 4, also included information and recommendations about upgrading certain sirens.

With the addition of 17 new sirens in 2009, there are a record 172 sirens installed and operable in the county's warning system. The count does not include City of Dublin sirens, which are not part of the county's system. FCEM&HS conducted a study using Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping software that shows the current placement of outdoor warning sirens. On the accompanying map generated by this study, the tan circles show the current siren coverage in the county; the green circles indicate City of Dublin sirens.

Some Siren Upgrades Needed. The agency's update also informed the jurisdictions the Whelen Engineering Company has stopped making the amplifiers for its WPS 3000 model siren, cautioning that the siren will lose efficiency when the amplifiers are no longer repairable. The update noted there are 32 WPS 3000 sirens in 18 jurisdictions that should be upgraded.

The manufacturer offers a siren upgrade which includes new amplifiers, controller, and battery charger. Affected jurisdictions should contact FCEM&HS for more information on how to accomplish the needed upgrades. As of Dec. 4, the cost for the upgrade and installation is about \$6,100 per siren.

Follow-up by Jurisdiction. The agency will follow up by providing additional information specific to each jurisdiction regarding their current siren coverage, any gaps in coverage that may exist and recommendations on how to attain optimal coverage.

FCEM&HS is providing the information to the jurisdictions as part of a continuing effort to maintain and upgrade the outdoor warning siren system in Franklin County. The agency is responsible for the strategic planning, installation, operation and maintenance of the system.

Jurisdictions should contact FCEM&HS Warning Manager Art Baker at 614-794-0213 with questions.