



Warning Sirens Beyond the Tornado and into the 21st Century

The Minnesota Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) encourages jurisdictions to keep warning sirens in good working condition¹ and pursue a wide range of notification technologies. Because warning sirens are typically limited to tornado events, the use of weather radios, internet technology, smart phones, reverse 9-1-1 calling, proper education, and local media are all avenues that can potentially aid in the notification of the public of an impending storm, including and not limited to tornadoes. HSEM understands the limitations of outdoor warning sirens² and promotes having additional notification technologies available to residents, including special populations, particularly those with hearing or visual impairments³.

HMGP Funding is available under the 5% Initiative that relates to supporting this effort and is identified by FEMA as:

- Equipment and systems for the purpose of warning citizens of impending hazards;
- The use, evaluation, and application of new, unproven mitigation techniques, technologies, methods, procedures, or products; and
- Public awareness or education campaigns about mitigation

Potential projects might include:

- Integration into FEMA's [Integrated Public Alert and Warning System \(IPAWS\)](#)
- Weather radios
- Educational outreach efforts related to tornadoes and mitigation efforts

To be eligible for the 5% initiative, activities must:

- Be difficult to evaluate against traditional program cost-effectiveness criteria;
 - Comply with all applicable HMGP eligibility criteria as well as with Federal, State, and local laws and ordinances;
 - Be consistent with goals and objectives of the State or Tribal (Standard or Enhanced) and local or Tribal mitigation plans; and
 - Be submitted for review with a narrative that indicates that there is reasonable expectation that future damage or loss of life or injury will be reduced or prevented by the activity.
- *The State will not fund projects that are a direct result from delayed maintenance, immediate repair, or upgrades to systems mandated from either federal or state directives.*

¹ State All Hazard Mitigation Plan, Mitigation Strategy 4.2.3 Action 4.2.3.5

² State All Hazard Mitigation Plan, Mitigation Strategy 4.2.3 Action 4.2.3.6

³ State All Hazard Mitigation Plan, Mitigation Strategy 4.2.3 Action 4.2.3.2