



## Be Prepared for Tornadoes in Sarcoxie!

*Revised Spring 2022*

This Flier is to provide tornado safety information specific to Sarcoxie and surrounding area.

### THE LEGEND

As legend goes, Chief Sarcoxie, Rising Sun of the Turtle Band of the Delaware Indian tribe, settled here because it was protected from tornadoes. True or not, today only a small unpopulated part of the city actually sits on the original site – leaving the bulk of the city exposed to the risk of tornadoes.

### BASICS

Tornadoes can occur any hour and day of the year. The riskiest time of the year for tornadoes is from late spring to early summer. The riskiest time of day is between 3 pm and 9 pm.

A tornado WATCH means conditions are right for a tornado to occur and usually covers a very broad area. A tornado WARNING means there is likely a tornado present and is usually in a very specific area or path.

### THE MOST IMPORTANT RESOURCE

YOU are the most important resource for protecting you and your family! Agencies and organizations will try to help as much as possible but when all is said and done, the decisions and actions you take will give you the best chance of protection in dangerous weather.

### WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?

Most folks plan to “shelter in place” if a tornado strikes. If so, make sure you know exactly where you want to go (i.e. basement, shelter, bathroom, or an interior closet) AND what you want to take with you. Don't wait until the storm is here to grab a flashlight, some blankets, or a book to read to your kids - have them with you or already there.

Some folks plan on going to a friend's house or basement or simply to try to get out of the path of approaching storms. If this is your plan then plan on getting there before the danger arrives. You don't want to be in a vehicle when the storm hits. How much time will you need to get loaded up and get there? What and who do you plan on taking with you? Do you need to take any medicine? Does the car have enough gas? Do you need to take bedding? All of this and more should already be thought out and ready before a storm.

**If you plan on doing more than sheltering in place do not wait for storm sirens to activate before starting. If you don't get going quickly enough your back up plan should be to shelter in place.**

### STAY INFORMED!!!

To ensure you have time to implement your plan, you need info about storm dangers as soon as possible. There are several local sources that communicate dangerous weather and other emergency information. Some of the sources local officials use includes:

**Television** – These stations will interrupt programming to report dangerous weather as well as put a weather map in the corner of the screen and scroll messages across the bottom of the screen:

[KODE](#) (ABC) channel 12 or Mediacom channel 13.  
[KSN](#) (NBC) channel 16 or Mediacom channel 3.  
[KOAM](#) (CBS) channel 7 or Mediacom channel 4.  
[FOX](#) channel 14 or Mediacom channel 11.

**Radio** - The [Zimmer Radio Group](#) has several local radio stations that interrupt regular programming during dangerous weather. Stations include:

KSYN-FM 92.5    KJMK-FM 93.9    KXDG-FM 97.9  
KIXQ-FM 102.5    KZRG-FM 102.9 KZYM-AM  
1230 KZRG-AM 1310.

All of these stations offer real time info for the Sarcoxie area. They can tell you where storms are, where they are going and when they will get there.

CAUTION – While other stations not listed may do an equally good job of covering dangerous weather, not all stations available in Sarcoxie will inform you of possible dangerous weather! During dangerous conditions it's recommended you stay tuned to local stations that you know provide the info you need.

### WAKE UP!

Radio and TV stations offer great real time info - but you may not know there is a risk to start paying attention to. Here are some resources that can give you warning and literally help wake you up:

**Weather Radio** - New weather radios can be set to automatically turn on for the threats and locations that you want to know about. For our area, you should know what is going on in Jasper, Newton, and Lawrence Counties. Weather radios are the best bet for waking you up to let you know that a possible dangerous weather is coming.

**Texts, Voice Mails and Emails** - All of the stations listed earlier offer texts, calls or emails to warn you of dangerous weather conditions. Most are free but some do require a small annual fee. Depending on how your cell phone is set up, and how light of a sleeper you are, it can give you an audible warning. FEMA also offers a mobile app that you can set specific settings for up to 5 different locations to give you notifications and alerts for all types of weather. Just search "FEMA" on your mobile phone app store.

**Friends, Family and Neighbors** - Make arrangements in advance to call friends and family to warn them of dangerous conditions and have them do the same for you.

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### **STORM SIREN ACTIVATION**

Storm sirens are designed to be a warning system for people who are outdoors. They are not designed to reach into buildings or to wake you up in the middle of the night.

The city has 3 storm sirens that will activate if:

- The NWS issues a Tornado Warning, OR a trained spotter reports a tornado in Jasper, Newton, or Lawrence Counties and the tornado path includes the City of Sarcoxie; OR
- The NWS reports a storm system producing wind speeds of 75 MPH or greater and the storm path includes the City of Sarcoxie; OR
- A squall line thunderstorm during a tornado watch or warning with a path that includes the City of Sarcoxie.

**Storm Sirens are a warning of last resort!** The City will try to activate sirens when the danger is 15 minutes away. Unfortunately, conditions change and things happen resulting in sirens sounding when the danger is as much as 30 minutes away or right over the city (zero warning). Only 1 siren has battery backup so if the power goes out you may not hear a siren at all. For these reasons, you need to take charge of your personal safety and not wait for the sirens to sound.

When sirens are activated, they will sound a 3 minute wail then shut off. If possible, they will be activated every 3 minutes until the danger has passed. **There is no all-clear siren signal.**

**When the storm sirens activate, it is too late to do anything other than shelter in place.**

### **PUBLIC STORM SHELTERS IN SARCOXIE**

There are 2 FEMA certified shelters located in the city – one at Wildwood Elementary School and one at Sarcoxie High School (south side of the Middle School building). These shelters are staffed during an overlap of a tornado watch and a severe thunderstorm warning for southeast Jasper County and the doors are opened as soon as the shelter is staffed.

Please note that pets are not allowed in the FEMA shelters. If that is going to be a problem you need to plan on a different course of action.

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### **EMERGENCY SERVICES RESPONSE**

When there is an elevated risk for dangerous wind or storm events, police, fire, the school district and city government go in to a heightened state of readiness. City Hall opens up as an Emergency Operation Center (EOC), establishes direct communications with the JASCO 911 Center and supervises siren activation. The Fire Department can activate storm spotters and fleet disbursement as conditions warrant.

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### **WHEN THE CITY SUFFERS STORM DAMAGE**

It is going to happen someday. When it does, emergency services and city government will be doing everything in their power to protect life and property. Here are some things to expect:

- There will initially be a lot of confusion.
- The first priority will be search and rescue. We will need help determining if people are unaccounted for.
- The City has limited resources so will coordinate and seek assistance from local...

...residents and businesses, Jasper County Emergency Management, and other local agencies.

- The City will provide public information through the above listed Radio and TV stations and at a designated location in the City.
  - The City will need and accept volunteers and establish a location for volunteers to check in and be assigned tasks.
  - Access to the city and damaged parts of the city will be restricted. We won't put up with sightseers, looters or anyone interfering with rescue and recovery operations or who don't respect a victim's rights for privacy.
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### **MORE INFO**

There are lots of sources of information on tornados, personal protection, and emergency plans if you want to know more including:

- [American Red Cross](#)
- [Missouri Storm Aware](#)
- [State Emergency Management Agency \(SEMA\)](#)
- [Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\)](#)
- [National Weather Service \(NWS\)](#)
- [National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](#)

If you don't have access to the internet, visit the Sarcoxie Public Library or contact City Hall to request additional information.

This brochure will periodically be revised and available on the City's website at [www.sarcoxie.com](http://www.sarcoxie.com) for printing. Note the date on the front page.

Remember – you have the most important role in protecting yourself and your loved ones during a tornado. Please plan ahead, know how you will stay informed and don't wait for the storm sirens to take action!