

Millard County Sheriff's Office Six County Siren System & **CODE RED**

Identifying the 3-Tone Sirens & How **CODE RED** Works for You

by Janet Lindquist

Millard County Sheriff, Robert Dekker, wants you to know about YOUR Early Warning Siren System. In the world today – with life threatening hazards traveling up and down our interstates, rail roads, and road ways, and unexpected weather conditions – having a warning system for the public will help Sheriff Dekker give you valuable information at critical times.

The Six County Siren System has been selected to help the public identify and react to possible life threatening situations. This system consists of a three-tone siren. This system is designed to notify those who are outside for immediate response. Do not be alarmed if you cannot hear the siren in your home or business, since you will be contacted shortly via the **CODE RED** telephone notification system. (Also, do not call the Sheriff's office for information at this time.)

The FIRE tone siren is a Long High-Low Wail. This is the same tone presently used in most communities; however, some smaller towns have been using a solid tone and local residents will now need to identify the new fire siren tone. In some cases, the fire department will choose NOT to use the fire siren for the public to hear.

The Shelter-In-Place (SIP) tone siren is a Fast High-Low Wail. This tone might be confused with the fire siren if you aren't aware of the faster cycling of the wail. In the event you hear the SIP tone, go inside immediately and close and lock all doors and windows. Turn off all ventilation while you are waiting for your **CODE RED** telephone call. The **CODE RED** phone call will give you instructions on what to do.

There are several reasons you may receive a request to Shelter-In-Place: 1) You may be notified to SIP if there is a weather related condition coming toward your community, such as a tornado or severe hail storm, etc. 2) You may also be asked to SIP in the event of a criminal in your area, one that is armed and dangerous and a threat to the community. 3) You may be asked to SIP for a hazardous materials toxic plume. If this is the case, you will need to have a "SIP kit" which can be used immediately to seal one small room (safe room) in your home for no more than 2 hours.

When choosing a "safe room" to shelter from a hazmat plume, you will want a room on the first or second floor with as few windows and doors as possible, (not a basement, since toxic fumes may settle there) like a small interior bathroom. In most cases shelter-in-place will be much less than 2 hours with the usual air flow in our area.

For your SIP kit you will need five or six mil plastic sheeting to cover each window, door and air vent of your “safe room”. Cut the plastic ahead of time, about 4 inches wider than the framing. Label each piece for quick application. You will also need duct tape to seal the plastic sheeting. Don’t leave folds or creases in the plastic as you put it up. Be sure to tape around all electrical outlets and all plumbing pipes entering the room. Also, be sure to check inside cupboards for holes as well. Use fresh duct tape for a good seal. You will also want to have an Emergency radio, weather band radio, telephone or cell phone, some food and water and – if you have children or pets – anything that will help the time go by: books, games, a coloring book and crayons, etc. Don’t forget the diapers and formula.

If you have large dogs and/or many pets, you may want to shelter them in another room. You may not have time to seal the room as well as your own safe room. Remember, the air exchange rate is greater in a less insulated home, trailer and car. DO NOT try to SIP in a car!

*If you run a business and must SIP for a hazmat event, you may have patrons that will need to SIP with you. Be aware of this, since you may need more than one safe room. Plan accordingly! Proprietors will need to let customers know what the CODE RED instructions are.

*If you are at home, you may have company and must SIP with everyone for a hazmat plume. Be aware of this, you may need more than one safe room. Plan accordingly!

*Schools will also need to have a plan to SIP during the school day while all students are in the building. Please DO NOT come to pick up your child at school at this time! The students WILL NOT be released until it is safe!

You will be notified by a second **CODE RED** telephone call, when it is OK to leave the safe room. At that time, you will want to have one person leave and open up all windows and doors, and turn on ventilation to remove the possibly contaminated air inside your home, replenishing with fresh air from outside.

The Evacuation siren tone is a Long High Solid Tone. This tone will start low and slowly build to a high tone, where it will stay solid. You will need to listen for your **CODE RED** telephone call to respond appropriately. This tone will only be used if the community can safely evacuate from the hazard rather than Shelter-In-Place, or if it is more dangerous to stay. Such a threat might include a wildfire or a terrorist bomb attack, or a flood. You will most likely be told the safest locations to evacuate to and the road to get there. You will need to make sure you follow those directions; those trying to take a “short cut” may send you through the danger zone and put yourself at risk.

CODE RED is the “reverse 911 system” and is designed to contact those indoors. This is an emergency and non-emergency notification system network. The **CODE RED** system is a high-speed telephone communication service. It contains an internet-mapping program capable of targeting a certain geographical area within the county, making the notifications specific to the locations affected by the situation. The **CODE RED** system can make 1,000 calls every minute. It will call landlines as well as cell phones; any telephone which is associated with the address in the County. The people receiving these calls will get a pre-recorded message about the situation

that is going on at that time. If you have a senior citizen who may need assistance, please ask neighbors or family nearby to assist when needed. By making sure your new numbers are added to our system and old numbers are removed, we will keep our system working at peak efficiency. If you are not sure if you are in the **CODE RED** system, you can check at the www.millardsheriff.org website to sign up. **CODE RED** is also capable of sending test messages and emails but these will only be sent to emergency response personnel. **CODE RED** will alert the citizens within Millard County of natural disasters, search and rescue, man-made disasters, crime, and evacuations. The Sheriff's Office will also be using the system as a paging system for Sheriff's Office personnel, Search and Rescue, EMS telephone contacts, and other emergency response personnel. You may opt-out of the **CODE RED** system. However, to do this you will need to show proof of your contact numbers "in-person" at the Sheriff's Office.

When receiving a **CODE RED** call you will want to remember this will NOT be a local phone number. Your Caller ID will indicate an out of the area number starting with the number 8. Also, the message will be a recording, so wait a few seconds to allow it to start! It may seem like just another telemarketer; however, once the message starts it will clearly state it is from the Millard County Sheriff's Office and that this is the **CODE RED** system. Please note this is the best way to contact you in an emergency. If you choose not to answer, you may miss critical information.

*Unaffiliated areas of the county! Sutherland, Abraham, Sugarville, Flowell, Deseret/Oasis will not have the three-tone Siren System in the place within their communities since the sirens are located within city fire houses. However, you will need to be on the **CODE RED** system and understand the siren system as you travel within the community. DO NOT attempt to drive home when you hear the SIP or Evacuation tones!

For further Siren System / **CODE RED** meetings, or for groups wanting training in How to Shelter-In-Place, please contact the Millard County Sheriff's Office, at 435-864-2755 or 435-743-5302 and ask for a *Siren System* and *Shelter in Place* training with Janet Lindquist and Deputy Garth White.