



Emergency Warning Systems

Warning the public in the event of an emergency is one of the key functions of the **Kanawha County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management**. Natural and man-made disasters are not easily predicted therefore it is important that our community take steps to become prepared for an emergency today.

One of those steps is learning how you will be notified of protective actions to be taken in an emergency. Timely notification promotes life-saving actions. Following are ways that we use to communicate with you, our community. We consider each of these four emergency warning systems as a vital link in emergency preparedness and hope they give an additional layer of comfort and protection to those who live and work in Kanawha County.

Please avoid calling 911 unless you have an emergency to report, or need emergency responders. Emergency messages are repeated frequently by broadcast stations in the event of an emergency.

For All Emergencies 911 ————— Non-Emergency 304-744-6843

Outdoor Warning Sirens

Kanawha County's Outdoor Warning Sirens System consists of a network of 49 sirens located throughout the county. It is used in the event of many emergencies such as chemical incidents, hazardous material spills, and natural disasters. Kanawha County tests the siren system audibly the 4th Wednesday of every month at 12 noon.

- Kanawha County uses a 3 minute long, solid tone for monthly tests and for real emergencies.
- Four sirens are capable of voice messages, as well as siren tones, they are located the Charleston/South Charleston Fire station on 119 south at South Ridge, Nitro Market place, WV State University and South Charleston fire station #2. a siren tone is initiated before and after the pre-recorded or live message.
- Some fire departments also use the sirens to summon firefighters for duty. That tone is different. It's a "wail" tone that sounds like a fire engine siren.



West Virginia State University Siren

Once you hear the sirens activated, you should tune to an Emergency Alert System station for further emergency information.

WEB SITES:



- www.kanawha.us
- www.kpepc.org
- www.metro911.org
- www.redcross.org
- www.ready.gov

Emergency Alert System (EAS) – Radio and Television

All radio and television stations that serve Kanawha County participate in the Emergency Alert System. Five Charleston radio stations are the primary EAS stations: WCHS (580 AM), WKAZ (680 -AM), WVAF (99.9 FM), and WQBE (97.5 FM) with all other stations receiving alerts that are retransmitted to them.

This system is used for local emergencies as well as national emergencies such as severe weather and other localized or countywide emergency situations. Emergency Alert System messages are distinguishable by the three or four bursts of noise that make a “squawk” sound at the beginning of each message. You most likely have heard these come across you home television or radio as a test. You should listen carefully to these messages and be prepared to take action.



NOAA All Hazard Radios (weather radio)

These radios send information about weather warnings from the local National Weather Service in addition to other local emergencies. They are also equipped to sound an alarm in the event of emergency. Hazard Radios can be purchased at a modest cost from most local electronic or department stores. Please keep your radio plugged in at all times, and keep a fresh back-up battery.

Kanawha County Emergency Management and the National Weather Service have placed these radios in public buildings that may be affected during an emergency including local schools, Kanawha County Health Department, Kanawha County Court House and other public buildings.

Highway Message Boards



Kanawha County Emergency Management in partnership with WVDOT also includes 21 mobile and permanent highway message boards in its Warning System. You may notice the permanent boards along the interstate. Someone traveling in a car may not hear the sirens, or may not be tuned to an Emergency Alert System station.

Follow us on social networking Twitter and Facebook

Kanawha County Department of Homeland Security and
Emergency Management
Web site for additional information.



Kanawha County, West Virginia

Kanawha.us

