

### Tornado Facts

- Peak season in Florida is March — May.
- Tornadoes may form quickly with little or no warning.
- Tornadoes may appear transparent until debris intensifies.
- Tornadoes may occur during tropical storm events (hurricanes).
- Tornadoes average forward speed is between 20 mph to 70 mph.
- Tornadoes may last as little as several minutes or as long as one or two hours.
- Tornadoes occur at any time of day or night and may occur any time during the year.

### Tornado Terms

**Tornado Watch:** Weather conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes.

**Tornado Warning:** A tornado(s) has developed or weather radar demonstrates a tornado is forming.

### Tornado Fujita Scale

F0	Light Damage	40-72 mph
F1	Moderate Damage	73-112 mph
F2	Considerable Damage	113-157 mph
F3	Severe Damage	158-206 mph
F4	Devastating Damage	207-260 mph
F5	Incredible Damage	261+ mph

### Tornado Danger Signs

- Large hail
- Violent winds
- Intense rain fall
- Severe lightning
- Dark, often greenish sky
- Wall cloud or funnel cloud
- Loud roar, similar to freight train



## Outdoor Tornado Siren Warning System



**400 Alexandria Blvd**

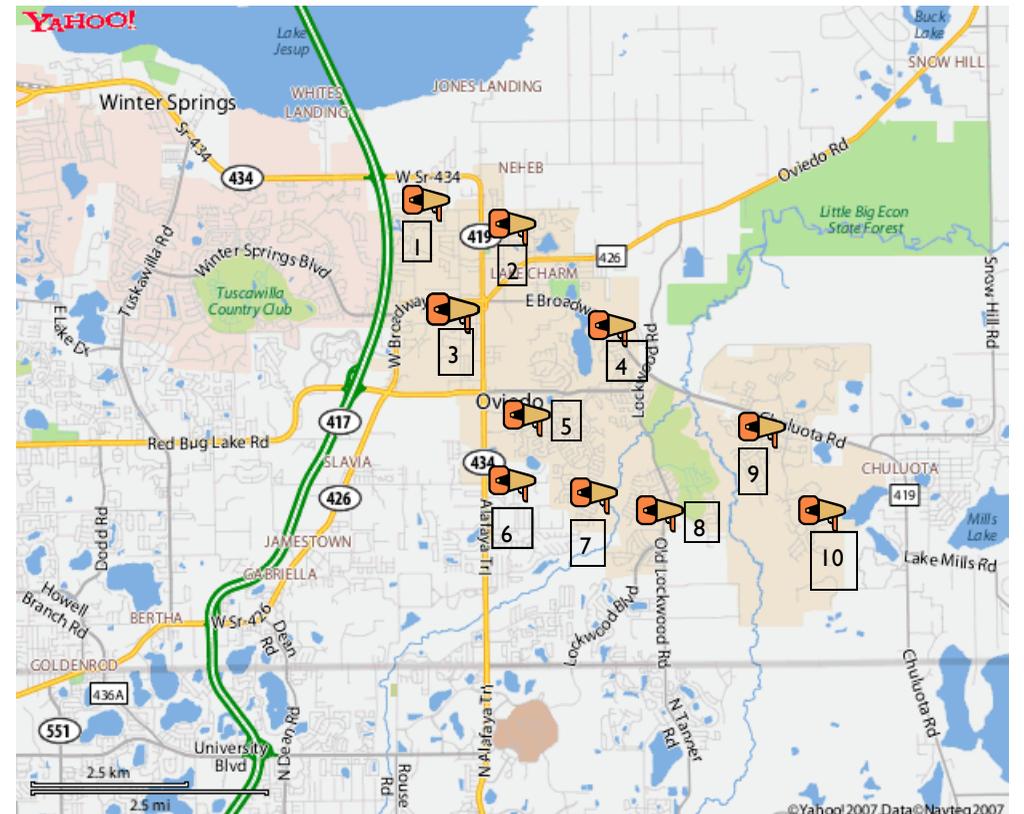
**Oviedo, FL 32765**

**407-971-5611**

**[www.cityofoviedo.net](http://www.cityofoviedo.net)**

### OUTDOOR SIREN WARNING LOCATIONS

1. Cross Seminole Trail/ Pine Ave
2. Sweetwater Park
3. Friendship Park
4. Long Lake Park
5. City Hall Complex
6. Evans Elementary School
7. Alafaya Utilities
8. Lockwood Blvd/ Simmons Rd.
9. Partin Elementary School
10. Live Oak Reserve





## Outdoor Tornado Siren Warning System

### What is an Outdoor Tornado Siren Warning System?

The City of Oviedo has recently invested in an “Outdoor Tornado Siren Warning System” as part of a comprehensive tornado warning system as an “Alert of Last Resort!” The Outdoor Tornado Siren Warning System is recognized as a viable component of a comprehensive tornado alerting method and has demonstrated a successful track record in many different states. Eight Outdoor Tornado Sirens have been strategically located within the City of Oviedo. Although the Outdoor Tornado Siren Warning System is capable of alerting people while indoors, there is no guarantee that everyone will be capable of hearing the siren while indoors. The primary goal of the Outdoor Tornado Siren Warning System is to alert people who may be outdoors while commuting around the city, in city recreation and park locations, in commercial parking lots, attending sporting events at local schools or children playing on playgrounds, swimming in home swimming pools or perhaps biking or walking around your neighborhood, or any other outdoor activities.

**When Will the Sirens Be Activated?** The **Outdoor Tornado Siren Warning System** will only be activated for a “**tornado warning**” for **Seminole County** including the **City of Oviedo**. According to the National Weather Service, Seminole County experiences an average of two tornado warnings per year. The peak tornado season is typically March thru May however tornados can occur anytime of the year. Tornado activity is also common during the typical summer time thunderstorm season and during tropical storms and hurricanes. Upon activation, the sirens will sound a tone that lasts approximately **3 minutes** in duration. This siren tone indicates a tornado warning has been issued or Doppler radar indicates a tornado may be occurring.

**What Do I Do When I Hear the Siren?** You should take the same protective measures that you would upon receiving tornado warning alerts from other methods such as a weather alert radio, local television or radio alerts, text messaging and e-mail alerts, or other methods. Seek shelter in the safest part of your home or business. Vacate the second floor of the home and gather all family members to the center most part of the bottom floor away from glass windows and glass doors. You may wish to apply additional protection by getting under a mattress or blanket. If you are in a vehicle, consider pulling into a commercial parking lot and seek shelter inside a commercial building if you can do so safely. Do **not** call 911 upon hearing the sirens system! This is unnecessary and may overload the emergency communication center. We encourage you to practice tornado protective measures with the entire family by developing a tornado family plan!

### Is the Siren System the Only Alerting Method I

**Need? No!** The Outdoor Tornado Siren Warning System is not intended to completely replace other recognized indoor alerting methods. We strongly encourage you to have a weather alert radio, monitor local television and radio media, consider subscribing to text and e-mail alerts from local media outlets, or perhaps subscribe to various web based weather sites. Remember, the weather alert radio provides you with the best indoor alerting opportunity.

**Will the Siren System Be Tested Often?** The Outdoor Tornado Siren Warning System will be tested on the **first Saturday of each month at 12 noon unless weather conditions are unfavorable**. This testing is necessary to make sure the system is fully operational and it should serve as a reminder to all citizens that the City of Oviedo has invested in an Outdoor Tornado Siren Warning System as an **Alert of Last Resort** for tornado weather events. Other activations may occur for testing after maintenance or to demonstrate the system to emergency management or government officials. Every effort will be made to minimize testing.

**What Affects the Ability to Hear the Siren System?** Many factors impact the ability to hear the siren system such as the ambient noise levels around the community. Ambient noise levels are much higher during day time hours when cars are on the roadways and other noises are present around the community. The siren sound will travel much further late at night and in the early morning hours when the ambient noise level is much lower. High winds, intense rain, and multiple thunder claps may impact the ability to hear the siren system as well. Ambient noise inside a building will also impact your ability to hear the siren system such as loud music, television, or other appliances.

### Will There Be an “All Clear” Siren Tone? No!

We encourage you to monitor local media outlets to determine if the tornado threat no longer exists. If you hear a siren tone once again, it is because the tornado warning has re-occurred or a tornado perhaps has been sited in the Oviedo or surrounding area.

### Will the Outdoor Tornado Siren Warning System be Expanded?

It is possible that your emergency management officials elect to expand the system in subsequent budget years. This is based upon performance of the system and identifying those areas of the community that perhaps need improvement. Future annexations of property may also require the purchase of additional siren devices.

### What Should I Do After A Tornado Has Touched Down?

First determine if anyone requires emergency medical treatment. Also quickly evaluate the building you are in for severe damage. Call **911** only to request emergency medical care, report severe damage to buildings, or report dangerous hazardous conditions such as down power lines, gas leaks, or other life threatening hazards. Emergency Fire Rescue, Police, and Public Works crews will be surveying the area immediately and responding on a priority basis to the most serious needs.

### Who Can I Contact for More Information?

You may contact the City of Oviedo Fire Rescue Emergency Management at 407-971-5611 or visit the city web site at [www.cityofoviedo.net](http://www.cityofoviedo.net). We are more than happy to assist you and your family! You may also wish to visit the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the State Emergency Response Team, or the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on the World Wide Web.

### NOAA WEATHER RADIOS

The NOAA weather radios offer a premium level of alerting and are strongly recommended for the home and business environment. There are models available that accommodate **the hearing impaired** with accessories that provide a flashing light and a bed shaker device. Weather radios with **Specific Area Messaging Encoding (S.A.M.E.)** are highly recommended. This technology provides the opportunity to eliminate weather alerts for other counties surrounding your area.



### NOAA Frequency /S.A.M.E. Code Seminole County.

The correct NOAA weather radio **frequency** and **S.A.M.E.** code for Seminole County including the City of Oviedo are:

Frequency 162.475

S.A.M.E. 012117

### OTHER ALERTING METHODS

Besides outdoor siren warning devices and NOAA weather radios, there remains several other methods of receiving severe weather alerts. These other methods are also considered an important component of the comprehensive tornado warning system but are incumbent upon participation by each citizen. These methods include: media sources, weather subscription services, and emergency alert systems.