

ACTIONS TO INCREASE WARNING READINESS

This section outlines actions which local governments can take during crisis periods to improve their ability to warn the public of nuclear attack. These actions are intended to increase readiness progressively from a review of warning plans through to maximum operational readiness.

The Increased Readiness actions described in this section would ordinarily be the responsibility of the civil defense director, acting under directions from the head of local government. Many or all of these responsibilities might be delegated to the local Warning Officer.

Actions to Increase Warning Readiness

1. Review and Update Warning Plans

Review and update as necessary warning plans and SOP's.

If telephone is used for organizational warning, check calling lists and telephone numbers for accuracy.

Review procedures for transmitting warning on broadcast radio and television, background music systems, and private radio systems

2. Brief Warning Personnel

Alert warning personnel that readiness for emergency operations is being increased and that special attention is to be paid to circuit(s) over which warning is normally received

Brief all personnel responsible for receiving and disseminating warning to make certain they are fully informed of their duties and the methods of performing them (police or fire department dispatchers, etc.)

3. Commence Inaudible ("Growl") Siren Testing

Discontinue audible siren testing and begin daily inaudible ("growl") testing. (Caution: Do not permit sirens to reach full sound output.)

Furnish information on siren signals and what they mean to local Emergency Public Information Officer for appropriate release to the public.

4. Review Warning Plans with Cooperating Agencies

Meet with representatives of local broadcast radio and television stations. Review plans for broadcast of attack warning. Review EOC communications links to broadcasters and determine any additional circuits needed. This meeting should be coordinated with officials responsible for communications and emergency public information.

Meet with those responsible for operation of other appropriate public and private communications systems such as public address systems, background music systems, private radio networks, industrial plants, fire departments, military installations, and local offices of Federal agencies. Review or make arrangements for use of their circuits, equipment, and facilities (sirens, horns, whistles, etc.) for alerting and warning. Determine any interconnecting communications links required.

Prepare or update tapes of local warning messages.

5. Check Readiness of Warning Facilities and Equipment

Accelerate maintenance of alerting sirens and other alerting and warning equipment, circuits and facilities to ensure maximum availability.

Order installation of any additional circuits or equipment determined to be needed in step 4 above.

6. Develop Neighborhood Radio Watch Organizations If Required

If more efficient and reliable means of alerting the people are not available (e.g., an adequate siren system), establish in each neighborhood, through neighborhood leaders, a group of people large enough so that at least one person would be available to listen to local radio/television stations 24 hours a day and disseminate in the neighborhood any warnings or other emergency messages received, if the radio watch organization was activated.

7. Initiate Public Tests (Other Than Sirens)

With appropriate support from the local Emergency Public Information Officer, conduct system tests and public familiarization with broadcast warning, public address, and background music systems in their emergency modes.

8. *Fully Mobilize Local Warning System*

Request local radio/television stations commence 24-hour-a-day operation and maintain readiness to broadcast attack warning immediately on notification. Coordinate with communications and public information officials as noted in step 4 above.

Note: Conform to FCC emergency requirements, including EBS plans, as appropriate.

Request background music systems, public address systems, private radio systems, and other supporting agencies commence 24-hour operation (if not normally in operation 24 hours a day) and maintain readiness for immediate dissemination of attack warning on receipt of notification.

Activate 24-hour-a-day operation of neighborhood radio watch organization.