

INDIANAPOLIS – The Metropolitan Emergency Services Agency Division of Marion County Emergency Management has reviewed the first two severe weather events of 2024 and the policy of utilizing the outdoor warning siren system for a National Weather Service (NWS) Severe Thunderstorm Warning in conjunction with a Tornado Watch. The conclusion has been that while the intention was to provide earlier warning and weather awareness in this age of connectivity it was having the opposite effect and could ultimately lead to complacency.

Therefore, the outdoor warning sirens in Marion County will now only be utilized in the event of an NWS issued Tornado Warning or if a member public safety or a trained weather spotter observes a tornado. The public is reminded that the outdoor warning siren system is intended for outdoor notification only and the best way to remain weather aware is to have multiple ways to receive notifications. Utilizing a NOAA certified weather radio as well as personal electronic devices with a weather application downloaded and with notifications turned on are two important ways to receive timely notification utilizing two different technologies. You may also text MESAINDY to 67283 to receive weather warnings as well as other critical public safety warnings from Marion County Emergency Management. Members of the public are encouraged to follow Marion County Emergency Management on various social media platforms as well as visit <https://www.indy.gov./activity/marion-county-emergency-management> for more information on weather preparedness and the Marion County Rave Alert notification system.