

# NOTICE

## Big Lake Township's Outdoor Early Warning System Sirens Decommissioning Beginning in 2027

As a result of FEMA granting Xcel's request to move to an all-digital early warning system, the company decided to offer the 49 sirens it owned and operated in Sherburne County, to local jurisdictions.

The Big Lake Board of Supervisors declined the offer, citing financial and other potential liabilities in owning and operating the sirens. As well as the availability and reliability of more advanced technology for detection and alerting the public of severe weather and emergency events.

To prepare Big Lake Township residents, the following information is being distributed, well before any sirens are decommissioned.

Residents should consider some or all the following Alternative Early Warning applications and equipment to keep you informed of severe weather and emergencies.



1. Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) is FEMA's national system for local alerting that provides authenticated emergency and life-saving information to the public through mobile phones using Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), to radio and television via the Emergency Alert System (EAS), on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's NOAA Weather Radio, and to digital devices and services via the IPAWS All-Hazards Information Feed.

While the IPAWS WEA system is pre-loaded on cell phones, you have control over receiving certain categories of alerts (such as Imminent Threat or AMBER Alerts) in your device settings.

- **iPhone Users:** Go to Settings→Notifications, scroll down to Government Alerts, and toggle Emergency-Alerts and Public Safety- Alerts to ON.
- **Android Users:** Go to Settings→ Safety & Emergency (or Notifications)→ Wireless Emergency Alerts and turn Allow Alerts to ON.



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2. Hyper-Reach WEA is a **FREE opt-in subscription**, for Sherburne County residents.

- Alerts can be sent to cell phones, home/land lines, email addresses, and TDD/TYY devices.
- Signup at:

[https://signup.hyper-reach.com/hyper\\_reach/signup\\_page\\_2/?id=116062](https://signup.hyper-reach.com/hyper_reach/signup_page_2/?id=116062)

3. NOAA weather radio.

- Radios cost range \$50.00-\$200.00 - depending on brand and adaption needs.
- FREE to listen online: <https://www.weatherusa.net/radio>

4. NOAA FREE app available, for cell devices.

- **Android Users:** App available on Google Play
- **iOS/iPhone Users:** App available on Apple Play



**Visit your cell provider's store for help adding apps to your mobile device or modifying app settings. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SIREN DECOMMISSIONING CALL: Big Lake Township: 763-263-8111 or EMAIL: [clerksoffice@biglaketownship.com](mailto:clerksoffice@biglaketownship.com)**