



## Carrollton/Farmers Branch Outdoor Warning Siren Testing

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Thank you for volunteering to participate in the monthly Outdoor Warning Siren Test. This document describes Carrollton / Farmers Branch Outdoor Warning Siren Testing from the participant's point of view. Pre-test preparation performed by the Siren Test leadership and Net Control responsibilities are not included in this document.

Read through this document prior to participating in an Outdoor Warning Siren Test. For your first one or two siren tests, follow along with the procedure during the test. You will quickly get the hang of what's going on by listening to other participants make their siren reports.

### Participant Responsibilities

1. The Friday prior to the test, Net Control will send an email to all participants reminding them of the test and making siren assignments. Siren assignments usually do not change from month to month. **Reply to the email with your availability as soon as possible.** If you are not able to cover your assigned siren for that month, the Siren Test leadership will deal with it but they need to know if you won't be there.
2. **Print the roster** and take it with you. Check off reports as you hear them.
3. Arrive at your assigned siren site no later than 10 minutes before the start of the test. For a 1:00 PM test, arrive no later than 12:50 PM.
4. Drive or walk around the siren mounting post observing the physical condition of the siren system. Most siren sites have (from bottom to top) a battery box, a solar panel, an antenna, and a siren horn. Look for obvious signs of damage. You will report the physical condition of the siren system to Net Control later during your siren report. See more information in the Participant Siren Reports section of this document.
5. Position yourself away from the siren so you can easily observe its rotation and hear the siren. Choose a safe place to park out of traffic—in a parking lot as opposed to the side of a busy road.
6. Wait for Net Control to begin the Net on the 145.210 repeater. There may be some pre-test chatter before Net Control starts the Net.
7. Net Control will begin the Net. Once the Net starts, cease the chit-chat until after the Net is complete. Net Control will control communications on the repeater during the Net. If you need to talk at any time during the net (other than when Net Control expects you to talk), say your call sign and the word "recheck" – then wait for Net Control to acknowledge you.
8. Net Control will call roll in siren numerical order usually starting with the Carrollton sirens followed by the Farmers Branch sirens. Respond with your siren number and call sign when Net Control calls your siren. For example, "This is Carrollton #1, [your\_call\_sign]."
9. Wait for the siren test to occur. The Carrollton and Farmers Branch siren systems are separate and are activated by different people. The cities may or may not start the test at the same time. When tested, the Carrollton sirens are exercised for about 1 minute while the Farmers Branch sirens are exercised for about 2 minutes. Those monitoring sirens in southern Carrollton or northern Farmers Branch may hear the other city's sirens in the distance. Don't be concerned if your siren begins to sound late or if your siren finishes sounding while you can still hear other sirens in the distance.
10. While your siren is sounding, watch the siren rotate and listen for the quality of the sound.
  - Some participants count the number of rotations but this is not required. Ideally, you want the siren to rotate smoothly and sound continuously during the test. Depending on the siren design, some sirens rotate in only one direction while others will rotate 360° in one direction, pause briefly, then rotate 360° in the other direction. Don't worry about the pause to change directions. However, if the siren fails to rotate, rotates unevenly in a jerky start-stop-start-stop fashion, or stops rotating in the middle of the test, then state this observation in your siren report. Some sirens are not designed to rotate. If your city

uses non-rotating sirens, Net Control will be aware of these sirens. I believe all of the Carrollton and Farmers Branch sirens are rotating horn designs.

- Most of the time, the siren sound is either good or not at all. It is not necessary to actually measure the level. If the siren sounds weak, say so. Common sense will indicate when the sound is wrong. Our experience is that the siren either sounds good or it doesn't make any noise at all. If the siren sound is intermittent or weak, state this observation in your siren report. Realize that while the siren horn is rotating away from you, the sound level will appear to be less than when the siren horn is directly facing you. This is normal for a rotating horn siren.
11. After the sirens finish sounding, Net Control will call the roll again in numerical order starting with the Carrollton sirens followed by the Farmers Branch sirens.
  12. When Net Control calls your siren, respond with your report.
  13. If Net Control needs additional information about your siren, Net Control will ask. Respond with the information requested and end your transmission with your call sign.
  14. After you have made your report and Net Control has moved on to another siren report, you can leave your siren site but remain on frequency listening to the rest of the Net.
  15. At the end of the Net, Net Control will make some closing remarks and will officially close the Net.
  16. After the Net is closed, there may be some post-test chit-chat among the participants.

### Participant Siren Reports

There are five components to your siren report:

1. **Your city and siren number.** Start with this information so Net Control knows which siren you are reporting.
2. **Rotation.** Report good, uneven, intermittent, or no rotation as observed.
3. **Sound.** Report good sound, no sound, or weak sound as observed.
4. **Physical Condition.** At this time, only Farmers Branch requests a condition report, but if there is obvious damage, report it. Briefly describe the damage you observe but don't speculate as to the cause. An open battery box door should be reported as "Battery box door is open." When the battery box door is open, you may see obvious damage within the battery box. If you see damage, include this information in your report. If applicable, report if there is siren system debris on the ground around the siren mounting post or if the siren system exhibits a hazard to people walking near the siren mounting post. If there is no visible damage, state so.
5. **Your call sign.** Always end your transmission with your call sign. That's how Net Control knows you are finished talking and it's required by the FCC.

### Common Siren Test Reports

These are some examples of the most common siren test reports.

- "Carrollton Siren #X, good rotation, good sound, no visible damage, [your\_call\_sign]."
- "Carrollton Siren #X, no rotation, no sound, no visible damage, [your\_call\_sign]."
- "Carrollton Siren #X, no rotation, no sound, Battery box damaged, [your\_call\_sign]."
- "Carrollton Siren #X, jerky intermittent rotation, good sound, no visible damage, [your\_call\_sign]."

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**Common Physical Condition Reports**

These are some examples of the most common physical condition reports.

- “No visible damage.”
- “Battery box door open.”
- “Battery box door open and batteries appear to be damaged.”
- “Battery box damaged.”
- “Solar panel damaged.”

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