



Wentzville Weather Sirens Receive ADA Updates

City of Wentzville

310 Pearce Blvd.
Wentzville, MO 63385
www.wentzvillemo.org
(636) 327-5101

For more information, contact:

Kara Roberson
Communications Manager
Kara.Roberson@wentzvillemo.org

PRESS RELEASE – Aug. 27, 2015 (For Immediate Release)

Wentzville residents who are deaf or hard of hearing will now have a way to be warned of severe-weather events. A new weather siren was installed yesterday at the intersection of S. Linn and Wagner streets in Wentzville. This new ADA-compliant siren includes a visual lighting system, to ensure the warning can be seen and heard. This installation is part of a board-initiated process to increase Wentzville's ADA compliance. These are some of the first sirens of their kind in St. Charles County.

As the City has grown, weather sirens have been added, or older models replaced, in order to accommodate these new ADA-compliant, red LED visual lighting systems. Later this year, seven additional sirens in the City will receive the ADA-compliant LED lighting systems. More siren upgrades are planned in the future.

"We want all of our residents to be prepared during each severe-weather event. The installation of these new ADA-compliant systems ensures that our residents, including our hearing-impaired residents, can be more aware during an emergency," said Mayor Nick Guccione.

St. Louis-based Paraquad, a nonprofit that promotes independence for people with disabilities, has been a strong advocate for weather alert systems that consider the needs of people with sensory impairments.

"Installing a visual system is an important step to ensure the safety of all residents in the event of severe weather," said Aimee Wehmeier, Paraquad's Executive Director and CEO. "We applaud the City of Wentzville for providing leadership in this initiative, and we hope their example encourages other communities to include the deaf and hard of hearing community in their emergency preparedness planning."

The City of Wentzville provides day-to-day services that are essential to the function, effectiveness and efficiency of City operations. City departments work together to improve City services, programs, and events and to serve as a resource for its citizens and the community it serves. To learn more, please visit www.wentzvillemo.org.

It's important to remember, however, that weather sirens are engineered as outdoor warning devices only. Residents are often not able to hear the weather sirens when activated, due to improved home insulation and other detractors such as loud music and general noise. While weather siren technology has greatly improved, residents are encouraged to utilize a weather radio to assist with severe weather warnings.

To learn more about the City's new weather sirens, please contact Interim Police Chief Kevin Pyatt at (636) 639-2102.