



News Release

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For Immediate Release

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How will you be notified of severe weather?

(ALTUS, OKLAHOMA): **The City of Altus outdoor storm sirens are currently unreliable as a notification source for severe weather including tornadoes.** In an effort to keep you safe and make you weather aware, we encourage you to use some or all of the following methods to alert you of severe weather.

LOCAL RADIO & TELEVISION

#1 Local radio and television (over-the-air), satellite, and cable stations provide alerts when severe weather is in the area. When weather is forecasted and expected to be severe, turn on your local radio station.

ALERT ALTUS

#2 Alert Altus, this free notification system can send you a text and/or email to notify you of a number of different severe weather types in Altus. The link to learn more about Alert Altus and register your phone and/or email can be found here: <http://www.altusok.gov/194/Citizen-Notification-System>. City of Altus Emergency Management or Fire Department staff would be glad to help you set up your Alert Altus account and settings, just give us a call at (580) 481-2230.

WEATHER APPS

#3 There are many free weather notification apps for smart phones. The Red Cross has an app specifically for tornadoes, which has a verbal alert and siren-like sound for tornado notifications. Information about the Red Cross tornado app can be found here: <http://www.redcross.org/get-help/prepare-for-emergencies/mobile-apps>

NOAA RADIO WITH S.A.M.E.

#4 A NOAA All Hazards Weather Radio with S.A.M.E. (specific area message encoding) capabilities. This feature allows you to enter only those counties you want to receive weather alerts. They can be purchased at local stores or online. They range in price from \$35 – \$50 depending on the additional features you want (i.e. AM/FM radio, etc.). See <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr> for more details. City of Altus Emergency Management or Fire Department staff would be glad to help you set up your radio for local alerts. Give us a call at (580) 481-2230.

SOCIAL MEDIA

#5 A number of social media accounts such as twitter.com/altusready also offer alerting options. The National Weather Service (NWS) in Norman broadcasts watches and warnings for all of southwest Oklahoma, including the Altus area; their Facebook page can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/NWSNorman/>.

For more information, or questions please visit <http://www.altusok.gov/158/Emergency-Management> or contact Altus Emergency Management Director, Lloyd Colston at [\(580\) 481-2260](tel:5804812260) or lcolston@altusok.gov. For setting up Alert Altus account, you can also call Fire Department at (580) 481-2230.

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