

Outdoor Warning Sirens Around Duke Energy Nuclear Plants

In the unlikely event of an emergency at one of our nuclear plants, there are a variety of ways the public is informed. The notification method that most people associate with nuclear emergency preparedness is the network of pole-mounted sirens located within a 10-mile radius of each nuclear plant.

Purpose

The purpose of the sirens is to alert people who are outdoors to go inside and tune to a local radio or television for additional information. Hearing a siren does not mean people should evacuate; rather, they should seek public information from the state/county.

Activation

The sirens are owned and maintained by Duke Energy. In coordination with the company, county and state emergency management officials determine if, and when, to sound sirens and activate them accordingly. Emergency management officials may also use these sirens to alert residents of other types of events, such as hurricanes, tornados, flooding or hazardous spills.

Testing

The emergency sirens are regularly tested to make sure they will work properly. Siren tests are typically performed on the same day each quarter to minimize disruptions for plant neighbors. Local media outlets are made aware of these siren tests.

Catawba, McGuire and Oconee nuclear stations

- Full volume tests are performed before noon on the second Wednesday of each quarter for a three-minute period.

Brunswick, Harris and Robinson nuclear plants

- Full volume tests are performed before noon on the second Wednesday of each quarter for a five-second period.
- Sirens are also tested for a three-minute period each November.



Siren types



Siren tests are loud and can be heard for several miles, although residents may or may not hear sirens while inside. It is important to note that in an emergency, the sirens would sound repeatedly.

Sirens may also be sounded on non-scheduled days after needed maintenance. Local media outlets are notified if sirens are to be tested on a non-scheduled day.

Additional information

Annually, Duke Energy mails emergency preparedness information to households in the 10-mile emergency planning zone of its nuclear plants, which includes siren test dates.

Information about emergency sirens is also available on the Duke Energy website: www.duke-energy.com/safety-and-preparedness/nuclear-safety/nuclear-power-plants.

Emergency planning updates are provided on the following social media channels:

- Twitter: @DukeEnergy and @DE_Nuclear
- Facebook: @duke.energy and @DukeEnergyNuclear