

For Immediate Release

March 25, 2019

Plano to Use Wail-only Outdoor Warning Sirens

The City of Plano is transitioning to wail-only outdoor warning sirens.

Confusion caused by the voice messaging warnings illustrates the importance of this transition. Last night as a thunderstorm approached Plano, spotters, police officers and residents all reported a funnel cloud. The decision was made to sound the sirens. A voice message “tornado warning” accompanied the sirens. The National Weather Service did not issue a tornado warning, but later confirmed there was a low funnel cloud over the Legacy corridor that did not touch down.

The voice messaging can be confusing and/or difficult to hear. In many cases, our residents are going outside to hear the messages. That is the opposite of what they need to do. The wail sirens are designed to warn people who are outdoors to take shelter and seek more information.

The City does not have messages prerecorded to address the full spectrum of hazards in which sirens may be used in Plano. We are limited by the software used to sound the sirens by the number of messages we can prerecord.

The wail only warnings will be three minutes in length when sounded. The siren system will be tested on the first Wednesday of the month, weather permitting. During the monthly test, the sirens will sound for one minute and announce test after the tone.

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Editor’s Note: Go to the City’s [Media Center](#) for comprehensive information about the City of Plano.

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About Plano

Plano, Texas, is the largest city in Collin County with a population of 283,700 as of January 2019. Incorporated in 1873, the city is located 20 miles north of Dallas. Niche and AreaVibes recently named Plano as one of the Best Cities to Live in America. Forbes designated Plano one of America’s safest cities. The City offers a high quality of life that includes nationally recognized schools, award-winning parks, and sustainability initiatives and a wide variety of multi-cultural neighborhoods appealing to families, young singles and retirees. Plano is home to the headquarters or regional operations of major corporations such as Toyota, Liberty Mutual, JPMorgan Chase Boeing Global Services, Fannie Mae, FedEx Office, JC Penney, Rent-A-Center, Cinemark Holdings, Denbury Resources and Alliance Data Systems. Our dynamic community features excellent restaurants, vibrant shopping and entertainment venues, a lively historic downtown district and active local arts scene. Easy access to DART light rail and major highways makes Plano a convenient place to live, work and visit. To learn more about Plano, go to our website at [plano.gov](#).