

# Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

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## “Make Plans for Severe Weather Now”



City of Norfolk firefighters are some of the many responders to the 2014 Pilger tornado.

With severe weather always a threat in spring, Norfolk citizens are asked to be on the alert and make plans now for what to do during a tornado warning.

"As with any emergency, you need to plan now what you would do. Have a discussion with your family as to what you should do if you're on your bike or home alone and a tornado siren goes off," said Trent Howard, City of Norfolk Assistant Fire Chief/Region 11 Emergency Manager.

He said a good plan for kids who hear the siren go off is to turn on a radio or open a weather app like the Red Cross Tornado app on their phone and listen to the details of the warning as they head to a safe place. If they aren't at home they need to find a nearby home or business with either a centralized room or basement and contact parents to let them know where they are at.

Howard said a tornado warning siren consists of a three minute long whistle blow. There is never an all clear signal. If the siren goes off again, it means another tornado may be in the area or people are still in imminent danger.

He added that many times a person can't see a tornado as it might be hidden in driving winds and rain.

"Stay in your basements, safe rooms or your pre-designated areas and listen to a portable radio, weather radio or weather app until you're informed that the danger is past. Take shelter until you hear otherwise," Howard said.

A testing of the tornado sirens in Norfolk will begin Tuesday, April 5 at 9 am. Siren testing is done every first and third Tuesdays through September. Testing will not be done if the area is already in a watch or warning the day of the test. For more information about staying safe in a tornado go to [www.ready.gov/tornadoes](http://www.ready.gov/tornadoes).