

November 18, 2014

Slave Lake residents to hear new emergency siren this week

Slave Lake – Many residents of Slave Lake will hear the sound of the Town’s new outdoor siren for the first time this week. The siren is installed and a mini test last week confirmed the system is working. Full commissioning takes place Thursday, November 20.

“We’ve undertaken an extensive information campaign, so residents are aware of the testing,” says Mayor Tyler Warman. This includes a short video and activity sheets for the elementary schools, flyers sent to residents and posters around town. “We’re expecting to make lots of noise and we don’t want to surprise or alarm residents.” The new sound of the siren will be heard between 10:30 to 11:30 AM and will continue in the afternoon if needed.

The outdoor siren is a new addition to the community’s emergency notification system. “The siren is meant to alert residents and visitors in town that there is an emergency and to seek more information”, added Warman. “Our information campaign has also focussed on what residents need to do when they hear the siren. The siren does not automatically mean there is an evacuation. It means: Get more information.”

In emergency situations, the Town will use send out instructions on 92.7 Lake FM – the local radio station, Alberta Emergency Alert and on the Town’s website and social media.

The new siren is located downtown near the Government Centre. It is meant as an outdoor notification system and should reach most of the residential areas of town, as well as the Northeast Industrial Park, Big Fish Bay and Gloryland. Wind, cloud cover and humidity will affect the distance of sound travels.

The siren is just one part of the emergency notification plan and it is not expected for all residents to hear the siren indoors.

The siren was purchased and installed with Tri-Council wildfire recovery funds received from Municipal Affairs.

Following the initial installation testing, the siren will be tested for 20 seconds at noon on the second Thursday of each month.

More information about the siren, the school video and activity sheets are on the Town website, www.slavelake.ca.

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Media enquiries may be directed to:

Brian Vance
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Slave Lake
Brian@slavelake.ca
780-849-8000