

# Be Prepared for Spring Floods

With spring comes the likelihood of heavy rains and floods.

When a flood comes, the safety of your family is the most important consideration. Flood waters can rise rapidly, so you should be prepared to evacuate before the water covers your pre-arranged escape route.

Here are some tips to help you before, during and after a flood:

- Be alert when storms approach. Be prepared to move valuables to a higher location and to evacuate if necessary.
- Prepare a flood response plan that will help you think through the details that demand attention after a flood watch or warning is issued. Writing it down will help you remember everything, which is especially important when everyone is in a hurry and excited. Put photocopies of inventory records, insurance policies, deeds, automobile titles, wills and other valuable papers at a location away from your house, such as a safe deposit box.
- If you know a flood is coming, you should shut off gas and electricity and move valuable contents of your home to a safe place. If you don't know how to turn off your gas and electricity, call your utility companies.
- Do not drive through flooded areas. Most flood deaths occur in cars. Don't drive around road barriers; the road or bridge may be washed out. Do not walk through flowing water. Currents can be strong. Six inches of moving water can sweep you off your feet.
- If you're caught in the house by floodwater, move to a second floor or to the roof. Take warm clothing, a flashlight, and portable radio with you. Wait for help.
- Safety is an issue after the flood, too. Before entering a building, check for structural damage and turn off outside gas lines. Let the building air out for several minutes before entering.
- Watch for electrical shorts and live wires while turning off the main power switch. Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. The No. 2 flood killer after drowning is electrocution. Electricity can travel through water.
- Cover broken windows and holes in the roof or walls to prevent further weather damage. Proceed with immediate cleanup measures to reduce health hazards. Photograph ruined or discarded items for insurance verification. Water for drinking should be boiled vigorously for 10 minutes.
- Report flooding inside a building as soon as possible to the City's Customer Care Center at (918) 596-2100.



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Tulsa OnLine: Access services and contact City departments via the Internet at: <http://www.cityoftulsa.org>

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## Surplus Property Auction May 3

The City of Tulsa will hold its surplus property auction on Saturday, May 3, 2014. The sale will be at the City's surplus property facility, 108 N. Trenton Ave.

The auction will start at 9:30 a.m. Merchandise will be available for viewing on Friday, May 2, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The site will open at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday for viewing merchandise before the sale begins.

Bidders can register in advance and view merchandise online prior to the sale by visiting:

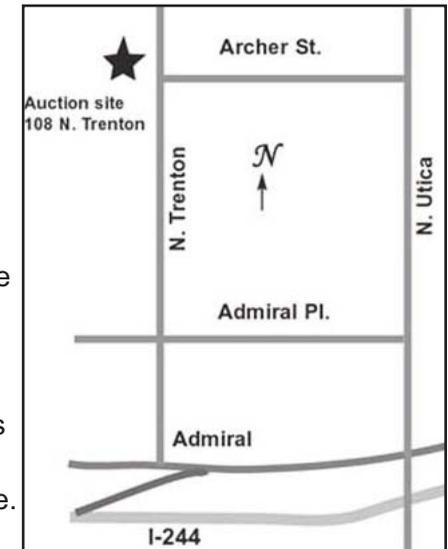
<http://www.joepippinauctioneers.com>

Surplus vehicles, office equipment and furniture, miscellaneous equipment and police property-room items will be included in the sale. All sales are "as is." It is the bidder's responsibility to assess condition of merchandise.

Three auctioneers may be selling simultaneously, so bidders wanting to bid on multiple items should bring a partner/proxy.

Cash, Mastercards and Visa cards are accepted. Checks can be accepted only if accompanied by a letter of guaranty from the financial institution on which the check is drawn. Payment is required in full within one hour after the auction ends. Sales are subject to applicable local and state taxes unless a sales tax permit is provided with proof of regular engagement in the re-sale business for items purchased. An Oklahoma Tax Commission auditor may be present.

No one under age 16 may be admitted at the City surplus property facility. Lending services are available by Employees Federal Credit Union, (918) 582-7573. Questions about the auction can be directed to the City of Tulsa's Finance Department at (918) 596-7233.



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# Tulsa's Emergency Sirens: What They Tell You

What do sirens tell you?

Being prepared when disaster strikes can help save lives and property, prevent injury and decrease recovery costs.

Knowing what warning sirens are telling you is part of being prepared for emergencies.

Understanding the siren tones can help you take the right protective action.

There are more than 80 sirens in the city, each audible for up to a mile.

Tulsa's sirens use tones that warn citizens about tornadoes, military attacks and chemical releases into the atmosphere. There is an additional warning that is unique to this community. It is a flood warning tone which is not a part of the federal guidelines for siren warning systems.

## Three Types of Sounds

**First is the three-minute "steady" tone.** It warns of impending tornadoes and of chemical releases into the atmosphere. It is a one-note tone. The only change in sound during the three-minute period may be an increase or decrease in volume that is caused by a change in wind direction or velocity.

Hearing the steady-tone siren during pleasant weather may be a signal to protect yourself from hazardous materials which can be released by industrial or transportation system accidents. Depending on the material involved, and on wind and weather conditions, a hazard may be posed for a small area or a large area of the community.

**Second is the three-minute "wavering" tone** - similar to the "wailing" sound made by police and fire vehicles. That tone is used only to warn of nuclear attacks.

**Third is the three-minute "high-low" tone** - like that used by many European ambulances and police vehicles and occasionally by emergency vehicles in this country. It warns of impending flooding.

Upon hearing either the "steady" or "wavering" sirens, citizens should seek shelter and tune in to local broadcast outlets for additional information.

Upon hearing the high-low flood warning, citizens should avoid low-lying areas where flooding is likely to occur, and access local media for further information.

When flood warnings are in effect, motorists should avoid driving in areas where water obscures road boundaries. They should also avoid driving through water flowing across roads.

Sirens are only a part of Tulsa's warning systems and are intended to warn people who are out of doors about impending dangers. The warning system also includes local news media, NOAA Weather Radios and even some local wireless phone and pager services.

## Testing

Tulsa's warning sirens are audibly tested each Wednesday at noon, weather permitting, as well as being silently tested daily. On occasion, technicians may test individual sirens at random times. Tests are typically one minute in length. Actual warnings are three-minute signals.

## ***Report Sewage Overflows. Call Us First!***

If you see, hear or smell something you think might be a sewage overflow or backup in your home or business, report it immediately by calling (918) 586-6999.

The City of Tulsa has a customer service employee available around the clock and, if needed, a work crew is available to inspect and take action.

Be prepared to describe the location.

Remember, many sewer line blockages can be prevented by keeping fats, oils or grease out of your drains. Those materials congeal and block sewage lines, resulting in expensive repairs to your private lines and can create problems for your friends and neighbors when the blockages occur in the City's lines.