

Community Safety In Pennington County, video script

"It's a beautiful day in the black hills of South Dakota, but in a few seconds, all that could change."

{Siren sound}

"When the community sirens go off, do you know what to do?
Emergency planners in Pennington County have developed this video to help you become more aware and better prepared for emergencies right here at home."

"The Community Warning sirens are an outdoor warning signal that an emergency has occurred. Many people think of the siren as a tornado warning. And while it is true that the warning sirens will be used in life-threatening weather situations, sirens may be activated for any non-weather related incident where the public might be in life threatening danger.

If you hear the community warning siren, this is what you should do.

The first and most important thing you should do is "go inside."
The siren has been activated for the sole purpose of sending you inside to tune into a local radio, TV station or to listen to your NOAA Weather Radio to receive official information about what the emergency "is" and what you should "do."

If you are outside and cannot get into a building return to your car and tune to a local radio station.

{Radio Transmission}

The following request is transmitted at the request of the Pennington County Emergency Management Office. A release of harmful chemicals.....

It is very important that you listen carefully to the official information and follow instructions exactly.

In the event of a hazardous Materials Emergency, the most likely official instruction will be to "Shelter in Place."

"Shelter in Place is a specific set of things to do to keep you and your family safe."

You have already completed the first 2 steps of Shelter in Place when the siren was activated.

You went inside your home or other building and you tuned into a local television, radio or NOAA Weather Radio to get ongoing emergency information.

If the official instructions are for you to Shelter in Place, this is what you should do.
Close and lock all doors and windows to the outside,

Next, turn off all heating and air conditioning equipment that draws in outside air.

After that, turn off all exhaust fans and ventilation systems.
And if your home has fireplace, close the dampers.

These steps will protect you and your family from any potentially harmful chemicals that might have been released into the open air.

Once you have closed all openings to outside air, continue to monitor your TV or radio for updates.

It is important at this time to keep the phone lines clear.
Don't make phone calls, unless you have an immediate emergency.

In extreme cases of emergency you may be instructed to take shelter and "seal" a room in your home. If this happens you should immediately begin sealing any gaps to outside air. This includes using plastic to cover windows and sealing them with tape, close furnace ducts and cover them with plastic or a wet towel.

And seal the doors with plastic or wet towels. It's recommended that you pre-cut plastic wrap to fit windows and doors so they can be sealed quickly. Be sure to have tape on hand to seal the plastic as well.

The Pennington County sirens are a steady tone and are tested on the first and third Saturday of each month at 12:00 noon.

If you live close to any of these sirens, you may have become conditioned to hearing them and hardly notice them. In this case the important thing to remember is that any time you hear long or unusual siren activity, this is your notice to begin your emergency plan.

Go inside and turn on your radio, TV or NOAA Weather Radio for more information.

The most important thing you can do to protect yourself in an emergency is be prepared. Have supplies ready and practice what to do.

In an emergency, things can happen fast.

Spend a few minutes with your family going through these items and what they are used for. Be sure to include ...water, food, battery powered – flashlight and radio, first aid kit, prescription meds, sanitary items, cash, important documents, maps, contact info for family and friends, and Shelter In Place Supplies"
And remember to include batteries for your flashlight and radio. Or better yet, use a crank flashlight.

Refresh your kit every 6 months, when you change your clock to or from Daylight Savings Time.

Community warning sirens, "Shelter in Place", and an emergency kit... the best protection for you and your family in the event of a serious emergency in our community.

Music-