

September 9, 2009

Sally Ellertson  
Public Information Officer  
141 West Renfro  
Burleson, Texas 76028-4261  
817-426-9622  
F: 817-426-9390  
[sellertson@burlesontx.com](mailto:sellertson@burlesontx.com)  
[www.burlesontx.com](http://www.burlesontx.com)

The City of Burleson policy concerning activation of the Outdoor Warning System (OWS) and the Connect-CTY emergency phone notification system has been modified.

Tuesday night, Burleson City Council members approved a minute order that changes the severe thunderstorm alert factors to match that of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (COG). The OWS and the Connect-CTY phone notification system will now be activated if the warning from the National Weather Service forecasts destructive winds in excess of 70 miles per hour and/or hail that is 1-inch or larger.

In May 2008, following a tornado that hit just outside the city limits, council members approved a policy that said that a severe thunderstorm warning (OWS sirens and Connect-CTY emergency phone notification) would be activated when a reliable source reports sustained winds in excess of 58 miles per hour or hail in excess of one inch within or approaching the Alert Zone. The Alert Zone is a box drawn around the City of Burleson's city limits. Tornado warnings are activated when a tornado has been spotted or Doppler radar indicates thunderstorm circulation that could spawn a tornado.

The Sept. 8 change by council should significantly reduce the number of times the outdoor warning system and the Connect-CTY emergency phone notification system is activated each year. In the past nine months, 13 severe thunderstorm warnings were issued for Burleson's Alert Zone, but only one met the COG criteria. In the past five years, in both Johnson and Tarrant counties, the National Weather Service issued an average of 22 severe thunderstorm warnings each year with an average of only five per year that included the COG criteria of 70 mile per hour winds and hail 1-inch or larger. With the Sept. 8 change, the number of times that the two emergency systems are activated should be reduced by 75 percent.

To sign up for Connect-CTY, edit your information or opt out as a resident or business person, click on the "Sign Up Now – Connect-CTY" button on the City of Burleson home page at [www.burlesontx.com](http://www.burlesontx.com).