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Stations run news 24 hours a day, people communicate by texting, tweeting, and Facebooking, and there is an app for everything. Text messages and the internet will usually work even if the phone system goes down, so in the event of an emergency, text and use the Internet to keep the phone lines open. If there is an emergency, you can text, tweet and Facebook your status to assure family and friends that you are OK.

Since April 2008, the City has alerted residents to thunderstorm and tornado warnings via an emergency phone notification system. The emergency phone notifications automatically post to the City of Burleson, Texas Facebook page and to the City of Burleson Twitter page. The City also has outdoor warning system sirens (11 in Burleson's 26 square miles). City officials strongly encourage citizens to buy weather radios with S.A.M.E. technology (programming to receive local alerts).

So, are you signed up for emergency phone notifications? The notifications for weather are by phone and by email. If you are in the system, you will be alerted to tornado warnings, severe thunderstorm warnings, chemical emergencies, a state emergency declared by the governor, a national emergency declared by the president, or other emergencies as directed by the mayor, city management, or director of emergency management. The alerts are pre-recorded telephone messages made to the publicly-listed phone numbers of residents and businesses in the city. Individuals and businesses may also go online, <https://portal.blackboardconnectcty.com/welcome.aspx?eiid=1207B6088C3475A76371>, and add cell phone numbers to receive the pre-recorded voice message via cell phone.

If a thunderstorm is the threat, the pre-recorded message is "The National Weather Service has issued a Severe Thunderstorm Warning for the Burleson area. The storm is expected to contain 70 mile per hour winds or more, and, or, 1-inch hail or larger. Take appropriate action. Tune to local TV and/or radio for additional information." If the conditions are ripe for a tornado, the pre-recorded message is "The National Weather Service has issued a Tornado Warning for the Burleson area. A warning means a tornado has been spotted or that Doppler radar indicates circulation which can spawn a tornado. Take immediate safety precautions. Tune to local TV and, or, radio for additional information."

If you aren't outdoors, you won't hear the outdoor warning sirens. The siren system has both voice and sound (siren, horns). The tornado alert includes a voice message, followed by a three-minute siren, and ends with a repeat of the voice message. The severe weather alert includes a voice message, followed by a 30 second discontinuous horn, and ends with a repeat of the voice message.

The City's Emergency Operations Center is the information hub when severe weather is imminent. The EOC team - fire department, police department, public works, and public information officer – man the EOC. The EOC team works with the National Weather Service, City personnel trained in Skywarn, and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) storm spotters. The outdoor warning siren system and the Connect-CTY emergency phone notification messages are sent from the EOC. Other City departments are kept on alert to provide needed services if disaster does strike.

To learn how to be prepared in the event of severe weather, go to [www.burlesontx.com/emergencymanagement](http://www.burlesontx.com/emergencymanagement) and click on the preparedness guide at the bottom of the page. To sign up for Blackboard Connect emergency phone notifications, go to [www.burlesontx.com/weatheralerts](http://www.burlesontx.com/weatheralerts). If you want to receive those same notifications through the City's Facebook or Twitter pages, become a fan of [www.facebook.com/BurlesonTX](https://www.facebook.com/BurlesonTX) and [www.twitter.com/CityofBurleson](https://www.twitter.com/CityofBurleson). And, if you want to see where the City's 11 outdoor warning system sirens are located, go to [www.burlesontx.com/sirens](http://www.burlesontx.com/sirens).