

Emergency Preparedness: Notification & Warning

As the Town of High River continues to update and expand its Municipal Emergency Management Program, there is important information relating to its notification and warning systems that you should know.

Emergency officials will provide hazard information to residents prior to and during an emergency.

- The Town has built and will maintain a notification and warning program composed of multiple systems
- Information provided through the warning systems is based on information provided by provincial and federal agencies (e.g.: Environment Canada, the River Forecasting Centre and the Provincial Operations Centre)
- As soon as emergency officials confirm the presence of a hazard through these agencies, the information will be provided to residents
- The Town will make every effort to warn the public of hazards through all available systems as quickly as possible

What residents can do to keep our town safe prior to and during an emergency:

- Sign up for High River Alert
- Help spread the word by telling your friends and neighbours about hazards after you have received the Town's notifications
- Be aware of a hazardous situation that is receiving significant media attention, such as severe weather or flooding. Make sure you monitor the media if you hear something is happening
- Visit the Town of High River website (www.highriver.ca) frequently - all updates will be posted under 'latest news'

Warning Levels:

Level	Name	Criteria	Example
3	Critical Alert	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The life/safety of people is at risk; and 2. The risk is immediate; and 3. The alert will provide critical and/or life-saving information. 	<p>Would include: tornado warning, imminent flood, large chemical release</p> <p>Would not include: boil water advisory, severe storm warning, flood watch (7 or 8 hours away)</p>
2	Information Alert	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is a potentially hazardous situation that could jeopardize the life/safety of people, property, and/or the environment; and 2. The risk is in the near future (within 48 hours); and 3. People require specific information to protect their lives, property, and/or the environment from the hazard OR people require specific information to mitigate the risks of the hazard. 	<p>Would include: flood warning, severe water shortage, severe disease outbreak</p> <p>Would not include: major traffic accidents, severe thunderstorm warning, lockdown of facilities</p>
1	Status Advisory	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is a potentially hazardous situation that could jeopardize the safety of people, property, and/or the environment; and/or 2. There is an update on the status of an existing hazard that does not require the public to take any/new protective action; and/or 3. The hazard is not in the near future (within 48 hours), but it is determined that the public requires this information in advance. 	<p>Would include: water conservation, high stream flow advisory, fire ban, downgraded flood warning</p> <p>Would not include: large Town events (parades, air shows, etc.), construction schedules</p>
Routine Communications		Regular Town Communications	

Emergency Preparedness: Notification & Warning

continued

Distribution Methods:

Critical Alerts will be sent out in the following order through the methods listed below as time and the situation allows. **The goal is to inform as many people in the hazard zone as quickly as possible.**

Information Alerts will be sent out in the following order through the methods listed below as time and the situation allows. **The goal is to ensure widespread dissemination of the information in a timely manner.**

Status Advisories will be sent out using whatever distribution method is appropriate. This may be localized to an affected neighbourhood (e.g: Wallaceville) or more general information for the entire town. **The goal is to provide detailed information to the target audience.**

***Please note:** Emergency officials will only issue a High River Alert notification ONCE. Any updates on the specific emergency will be sent as a status advisory unless the situation is getting worse.

■ ■	High River Alert*
■	Permanent Outdoor Siren** (more information below)
■ ■	Alberta Emergency Alert
■ ■ ■	Town of High River website (www.highriver.ca)
■ ■ ■	Town of High River Social Media
■ ■	Press / media releases
■ ■ ■	Public service announcement
■ ■	Electronic sign at the Bob Snodgrass Recreation Complex
■	Door-to-door notifications
■	Roadblocks
■ ■	Constant Contact (the Town Crier digital email list)
■ ■	Electronic road signs

**** The permanent siren is meant for outdoor notifications only - most people will not be able to hear it inside. Tests of this siren have typically lasted 1-3 minutes. In a real emergency, the siren will sound continuously.**

To listen to a sound bite and familiarize yourself with what the siren will sound like visit:
www.highriver.ca and click on “High River Emergency Management” under the “Residents” menu.