

IPEC Siren System Q&A

Q. Have there been recent upgrades to the emergency siren notification system?

A. On August 27, 2008, the upgraded siren system was officially placed into service. The state-of-the-art system includes a complete replacement of the computers and related software and 172 new sirens, each with a back-up battery, all located within a 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) that includes parts of Westchester, Rockland, Putnam and Orange counties.

Q. Has Entergy addressed the backup power issue?

A. Yes, in fact, Entergy has gone well beyond the installation of backup power to improve the system. This upgraded system includes features such as multi-directional speakers on the sirens and back-up capabilities for every feature and component, not just the sirens themselves. Entergy also provided the counties a Code RED notification capability utilizing landline and cell phones, emails, and text messaging to alert the public of an emergency. These features may be used by the counties in the event of any potential emergency; not just in the highly unlikely event of an emergency requiring an evacuation at Indian Point.

Q. What are the sirens used for?

A. The sirens would be activated to alert people to turn on their radios or televisions to learn about a possible emergency at Indian Point. **The sirens are not a signal to evacuate.** Instructions to take protective actions—like evacuation or to shelter in your homes—would come from your local county government leaders and would be broadcast on Emergency Alert System (EAS) television and radio stations. Learn what [EAS stations](#) are in your area.

Q. How many sirens are there at Indian Point?

A. There are 172 sirens located within a 10-mile circumference of Indian Point, known as the 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ), including 77 in Westchester; 56 in Rockland; 23 in Orange; and 16 in Putnam County. The area of coverage within this upgraded system includes an additional 60 square miles that was not adequately reached by the previous system.

Q. How do I know if you are only testing the sirens or if there is a real emergency?

A. Entergy goes to great lengths to inform the public when it is preparing to test the siren system. It places advertisements in local papers; runs radio advertising on local radio stations; and issues media advisories to local television and radio stations. In addition, a notice is placed on [the Joint Information Center website](#), a notice is placed on the [Indian Point website](#), and emails are issued to individuals who [subscribe to receive email notices from Entergy and Indian Point Energy Centers](#).

If you are ever in doubt, tune into one of the identified [EAS stations](#). In the event of a real emergency, regular broadcasting would be interrupted. If regular programming is on, the sirens you are hearing are only a test of the system.

Q. How can I receive advance notice of siren testing?

A. Aside from the extensive advertising and media outreach we do, Entergy and the Indian Point Energy Center offer [email notifications](#) to individuals who request them. Your email address is all that we require, and is only used for the specific purpose of communicating important information about Indian Point.

We also encourage all residents to sign up for [NY-ALERT](#). It is an all hazard alert system operated by the State of New York that issues important emergency information on issues you select, including Indian Point. NY-Alert can issue urgent messages via e-mail, text message, phone and more.

Q. Who can receive a Tone Alert Radio?

A. As part of an Indian Point Energy Center emergency planning enhancement, Entergy installed new sirens in a 10-mile area around the power plant. These sirens are one of several ways that local emergency management officials would alert residents of an emergency at Indian Point. The sirens are a signal to turn on radios or televisions to Emergency Alert Systems (EAS) stations.

EAS is used by government officials to broadcast emergency information and instructions on what actions, if any, you should take for protection against severe weather, fires, transportation accidents, or an emergency at Indian Point. Some residents live in an area where the audibility conditions for the sirens may be less than ideal. These areas were determined by the system design. Therefore, as an enhancement to the sirens, emergency alert radios which deliver EAS messages are being offered to these residents. These radios are also called tone alert radios. If you live in one of these designated areas, you will receive a mailing from Entergy offering a radio to you.

The radios are tuned into WHUD FM 100.7 and are tested on a regular basis by the station. This approach has been publicly supported by FEMA.