



NIXA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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April 11, 2011

The following facts and questions are provided to further explain the situation involving the rural storm sirens within the Nixa Fire Protection District.

Fact #1; the nine storm sirens within the city limits of Nixa are owned and operated by the city of Nixa. The city of Nixa currently plans to maintain the nine storm sirens within the city.

Fact #2; in 1999 the fire district, Nixa 911 and Ozark Electric partnered to install eight storm sirens within the fire district outside of Nixa city limits. The sirens purchased were used and are some 50 years old. The sirens have a very low 1/2 mile reach.

Fact #3; the sirens are electrically powered, with no battery or generator backup system. The sirens frequently have the power knocked out by lightning storms.

Fact #4; the sirens are activated over a radio frequency that the fire department utilizes for all emergency operations. The siren receivers are not programmable, which means they will only work on the fire emergency frequency.

Fact #5; the sirens have been operated and maintained by the fire district since installation. This includes the monthly electric bills for eight sirens and replacement of components and parts to keep the sirens operational.

Fact #6; last year Christian County voters approved a sales tax to combine the Nixa E911 and the Christian County E911 into one Emergency Services Organization. An element of the consolidation brought forth an update of the entire county radio system to meet FCC regulations. This system will utilize the existing frequencies of all fire and police agencies throughout the county.

Fact #7; storm sirens are past technology for alerting of severe weather. The new technology and capabilities of television, national weather service brings better information quicker to all. They are capable of predicting weather issues much earlier. Add the messaging, texting, and weather radios to your arsenal, gives citizens a better chance of knowledge for an impending storm.

Fact #8; the district offered the storm siren at AA & Nicholas to the homeowners association at River Downs and the same for the siren at River Fork Ranch. Because of the numerous issues, the homeowners associations declined to take over the siren. Storm siren fact #9; replacing storm sirens will cost of \$15,000-\$20,000/each. This would not include the new radio technology to sound the sirens, a new frequency allocated by the FCC, the monthly electric costs, or the maintaining of the sirens.

Fact #10; storms sirens are normally managed by a municipality (such as the city of Nixa) or the county government (such as Christian County Emergency Management).

Fact #11; current issues to overcome, a method to activate sirens, a frequency allocation to send the signals, siren update or replacement, monthly electric costs, monthly tests, maintenance and repairs.

Question #1; will the city of Nixa continue with storm sirens? Their sirens are newer and will accept a reprogramming for operation. They also have an additional radio frequency to utilize. Their sirens still have parts available.

Question #2; can someone else control sirens? Yes, homeowners associations, other associates or groups, or the county emergency management.

Question #3; who put the fire department in charge of the rural sirens? No one, actually, the district partnered with Nixa 911 and Ozark Electric to purchase and install the sirens, from there the district maintained them.

Question #4; are there other avenues of storm warnings? Yes, television, radio, internet, cell phone messaging and text, home phone messaging, and weather alert radios.

Question #5; are there grants available for storm siren replacement? To date the fire district has not found an available grant option.

Question #6; why stop the sirens on June 1? The new radio system is scheduled to go on line June 1. The radio frequency currently used will not be available with the new radio system. The activation, of the current sirens, cannot be accomplished without the radio frequency.

Question #7; how do I get further information? Monitor www.nixafire.org, face book page, contact Chief Sebree at 725-4025, or attend the fire board meeting Thursday April 14th @ 6:00 PM, 301 S Nicholas Rd.