

Quarterly Siren Growl Testing – Frequently Asked Questions

Federal regulators require SONGS to briefly test all 50 regional sirens 4 times a year (once a quarter). When this is done, the sirens are briefly turned on to full power, one at a time, each making a short but loud noise. This is called a “growl test”.

What sound would I hear in a real emergency?

If there were a real emergency, the siren blast would last for 3 minutes. To hear a recording of a 3-minute siren: [Click Here](#).

During a radiological emergency, all 50 regional sirens will be sounded at the same time for a full 3 minutes. The 3 minute siren blast will be followed by an Emergency Alert System Message on radio (107.1 FM / 600 AM) and television which will provide instructions.

Is a growl test different than the Annual Siren Test?

Yes. Growl testing is performed in addition to the federally required [Annual Siren Test](#).

Where can I learn more about the siren system and disaster preparedness?

More about the siren system can be found by [clicking here](#). The City’s main disaster preparedness page can be found by [clicking here](#).

Are sirens growled at night? On weekends?

No. Siren growls are always performed on weekdays between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm.

How many sirens are there?

There are 50 sirens in the SONGS Emergency Planning Zone. 19 of the sirens are located in the City of San Clemente.

Can I hear sirens in from other cities in San Clemente?

Yes, depending on weather conditions and your location you may hear one of the other 31 sirens in the region. Also, when SONGS conducts drills, it uses its plant alerting sirens. These can also be audible within the City.

How many days does growl testing last?

San Clemente growl testing generally lasts for 2 – 5 days, with multiple sirens growled every day. The 3rd Quarter Test (July/August) includes siren maintenance and generally takes 2 weeks in San Clemente, as each siren is growled twice. Information on upcoming tests can be found on the homepage of the City’s [website](#) and at www.songscommunity.com

Who can I contact to learn more?

Please contact the City’s Emergency Planning Coordinator, Katie Carpenter at (949) 361-6109 or CarpenterK@san-clemente.org.

What are the upcoming growl test dates?

Upcoming Quarterly Growl Tests (Weather Permitting)

Annual Siren Test will be conducted on Wednesday, October 15, 2014

Third Quarter – Annual maintenance will be conducted this quarter

Weather permitting

Jurisdiction	Growl Test Dates
*Camp Pendleton	July 7, 8, 9 & 10
Dana Point	July 14, 15, 16 & 17
San Juan Capistrano	July 18, 21, 22, 23 & 24
San Clemente	July 25, 28, 29, 30 & 31, Aug 1, 4 & 5
State Parks	August 6
Orange County	August 7

Note: the third quarter growl schedule will extend longer to accommodate the annual siren maintenance. Quarterly growls shall be done prior to work on the siren and again after the work is completed as required by the growl test procedures.

Fourth Quarter – Weather permitting

Jurisdiction	Growl Test Dates
*Camp Pendleton	November 11 & 12
Dana Point	November 14 & 17
San Juan Capistrano	November 18 & 19
San Clemente	November 20, 21 & 24
State Parks	November 25
Orange County	November 26

Note: during the 4th quarter growls Camp Pendleton will test their mass notification system at the conclusion of SONGS growl testing.