

What is the Community Alert Siren System?

In the unlikely event of an emergency at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS), federal regulations require that an alert and notification system be in place to help protect the health and safety of the public. The Community Alert Siren System is a network of over 50 sirens strategically located within the plant's Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) to provide that service. The EPZ is the area surrounding SONGS and includes:

- City of San Clemente
- City of Dana Point
- City of San Juan Capistrano
- Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton
- California State Parks
- Orange County (unincorporated areas south of Ortega Highway)

The sirens are activated by local government officials in the event of an emergency, and have only one meaning: there is important emergency information available - turn on your television or radio. Community Alert Sirens may also be used to alert you to information for a wide variety of emergencies, including tsunamis, earthquakes, and SONGS-related events. You can watch a short video about the siren system by [Clicking Here](#)

What Sound do the Sirens Make?

A valid siren alarm is a long, steady tone that lasts for approximately three minutes. This long, steady tone is the only siren sound we will use during a real emergency or during periodic testing of the system. Depending on where you are located, you may hear the tone from several different sirens at the same time. Any other sounds, such as an alternating high/low sound, may indicate a malfunction of that siren.

A **short** sample of the siren tone may be heard [Here](#).

A **full** run of the siren tone may be heard [Here](#).

Remember, only a full three minute siren will be used when there is a real emergency.

In the Event of a Real Emergency

The sirens are a signal to turn on your radio or television for instructions. Important emergency information will be provided by government officials. **Please do not call 911 unless you have a life-threatening emergency.** Our local Emergency Alert System stations are:

KWVE FM 107.9 Santa Ana and KOGO AM 600 San Diego

Emergency information can also be found in the Customer Guide section of the Orange County South White Pages of your AT&T telephone directory.

Before an emergency strikes, register to receive emergency information from the City of San Clemente using [AlertOC](#). Registration is easy and free, and allows you to receive information by phone, email, text message, or TTY/TDD. With AlertOC, you can get important information for any type of emergency affecting the City.

Community Alert Siren System Annual Test

Wednesday, October 15, 10:00 am until 1:00 pm

Remember - This is only a test. You do not need to take action. **Please do not call 911 unless you have a life-threatening emergency.**

Federal regulations require that a full system test be conducted each year.

You will hear a long, steady siren sound. The sirens will be sounded several times for approximately three minutes each time.

Sirens will be heard in San Clemente, Dana Point, San Juan Capistrano, State Parks, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, and throughout the unincorporated areas of Orange County within 10 miles of the plant.

A separate test of the Public Address feature may be conducted. This feature may be used to alert local populations to other emergencies or to provide specific directions.

Growl Testing

The sirens are also briefly tested four times a year. They are also tested whenever a siren is turned back on after having maintenance performed. These tests are referred to as “growls” because the siren only sounds for about 20 seconds total, instead of a full 3 minute run. The sirens are always tested one at a time during growls. **During a radiological emergency, all 50 regional sirens would sound at the same time for a full 3 minutes.**

Quarterly Growl Testing

Federal regulators require SONGS to test all 50 regional sirens 4 times a year (once a quarter). When this is done, the sirens are briefly sounded one at a time.

Testing of the City of San Clemente 19 sirens generally lasts for 2 – 5 days. Notices of current

and upcoming tests are posted to the front page of the City's [website](#) and the SONGS [website](#).

Depending on your location in the City, you may also hear growl testing being done in Dana Point, San Juan Capistrano, San Onofre State Beach, or U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton.

Maintenance Growls

If SONGS takes a siren out of service for any period of time for maintenance, they are required to turn on the siren after completing work. This shows the siren works. Fortunately, this demonstration is done with a short “growl”, not a full 3 minute run.

Maintenance Growls in the City of San Clemente are posted to the front page of the City's [website](#) as they are scheduled.

Sirens at San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS)

SONGS also has sirens on its property to alert workers at the plant itself. These sirens are also tested regularly and they are used during regular plant emergency drills.

These sirens are sometimes audible in southern San Clemente and at the State Beaches and Parks, when weather conditions are right. Federal regulators require SONGS to use their plant sirens at full power during their regular emergency drills.

Notices of current and upcoming tests and drills are posted to the front page of the City's [website](#) and the SONGS [website](#).

Can the sirens go off accidentally or malfunction?

For more information about inadvertent siren activations, [Click Here](#).

[Email the City's Emergency Planning Officer](#)

[Return to Emergency Planning Main Page](#)