

Overview

CFB Esquimalt is installing a Mass Notification System (MNS) which is an effective method to rapidly convey a message to personnel on the base. The system is an audible warning system consisting of a network of radio controlled public address speakers, designed to be audible within the confines of the CFB Esquimalt.

Siren Locations:

There are currently five sirens located within the confines of CFB Esquimalt: three sirens located in Naden/Dockyard and 2 located at Work Point.

What the Sirens will mean:

The Sirens will be used as an all-hazards alerting mechanism (not only for tsunami warning). Note: In the event of a local strong earthquake, activation of sirens might not be possible. Although attempts will be made to initiate the sirens the earthquake itself might be the only reliable warning.

What the Sirens will sound like:

The Siren Tones: There will be four tones used by CFB Esquimalt. The sirens are designed to cover the CFB Esquimalt footprint of Naden, Dockyard and Workpoint. In all circumstances, after a warning siren has sounded, personnel are to follow the accompanying direction and "seek further information" by all available means (local radio, social media).

1. The first tone is the TEST TONE, which consists of alternating tones. The test tone will be activated on the first Wednesday of each month. It will last for 30 seconds, beginning at 11 am. The following voice message will immediately follow the test tone, which in turn will immediately be followed by the ALL CLEAR tone.

a. Test Voice Message: "This is a test of the siren system. It is only a test. If this had been a real alarm, listen to this system for further instructions. This is a test."

2. The second tone is the WAIL TONE real-time evacuation blast. The tone varies from a low to high to low sound. This tone will run for one minute immediately followed by a voice message. This cycle will be repeated three times and will be conducted every 6 min until the ALL CLEAR is sounded. One of the two following voice messages will be used to accompany the evacuation blast based on the situation:

a. Tsunami Alert Voice Message: "Tsunami alert, tsunami alert. Move to higher ground or inland now." This is NOT a drill. Tsunami alert, tsunami alert, move to higher ground now." (Wail tone) French

b. Evacuation Warning Voice Message: "An evacuation order has been issued for the base and you must leave now. This is NOT a drill; an evacuation order has been issued for the Base, leave now." (Wail tone)

3. The third tone is the SHELTER, which are repeated blasts of a single tone from the siren. The 'SHELTER' siren will run for one minute immediately followed by a voice message (siren will run for 15 seconds followed by a voice message for LOCKDOWN). This cycle will be repeated three times and will be conducted every 6 min until the ALL CLEAR is sounded. One of the two following voice messages will be used to accompany the shelter blast based on the situation:

a. Shelter Voice Message: "A dangerous condition exists on the base and you must seek shelter indoors. SEEK SHELTER NOW. Do not proceed outside until directed to do so. This is NOT a drill." (repeat)

b. Lockdown Voice Message: "Security alert, security alert. This is a Base Emergency. Commence lockdown procedures now. This is not a drill". (repeat)

4. The fourth tone is the ALL CLEAR, which resembles Westminster Chimes. You will hear this tone when/if a warning has been cancelled. The 'all clear' will run for one minute immediately followed by a voice message then a one minute rest period. This process will be repeated three times. (Chimes)

a. All Clear Voice Message: "All Clear, All Clear." (All Clear tone)

How are the Sirens Activated?

The sirens will be initiated by the Senior Watch Officer (SWO) in the Regional Joint Operations Center (RJOC) in MARPAC as required by the situation. The decision to use sirens for tsunami warning should be hazard and risk-based real-time data provides the National Tsunami Warning Center (NTWC) with quick and reliable information to determine whether an earthquake has generated a tsunami. In turn, EMBC rebroadcasts NTWC messages and issues BC-specific tsunami messages through the Provincial Emergency Notification System (PENS). Once an imminent threat has been identified to CFB Esquimalt by the NTWC and/or EMBC/PENS, the alarm will be initiated by the Senior Watch Officer located in the Regional Joint Operations Center (RJOC).

Tsunami Alert Message Hierarchy:

1. Tsunami Warning:

A tsunami warning is issued when a potential tsunami with significant widespread inundation is imminent or expected. Warnings alert the public that widespread, dangerous coastal flooding accompanied by powerful currents is possible and may continue for several hours after arrival of the initial wave. Warnings also alert

emergency management officials to take action for the entire tsunami hazard zone. Appropriate actions to be taken by local officials may include the evacuation of low-lying coastal areas and the repositioning of ships to deep waters when there is time to safely do so. Warnings may be updated, adjusted geographically, downgraded, or cancelled. To provide the earliest possible alert, initial warnings are normally based only on seismic information.

2. *Tsunami Advisory:*

A tsunami advisory is issued due to the threat of a potential tsunami that may produce strong currents or waves dangerous to those in or near the water. Coastal regions historically prone to damage due to strong currents induced by tsunamis are at the greatest risk. The threat may continue for several hours after the arrival of the initial wave, but significant widespread inundation is not expected for areas under an advisory. Appropriate actions to be taken by local officials may include closing beaches, evacuating harbors and marinas, and the repositioning of ships to deep waters when there is time to safely do so. Advisories are normally updated to continue the advisory, expand/contract affected areas, upgrade to a warning, or cancel the advisory.

3. *Tsunami Watch:*

A tsunami watch is based on seismic information without confirmation that a destructive tsunami is underway. It is issued to alert emergency management officials and the public of an event that may later impact the watch area. The watch area may be upgraded to a warning or advisory — or cancelled — based on updated information and analysis. Therefore, emergency management officials and the public should prepare to take action.

4. *Information Statement:*

An information statement is issued when an earthquake has occurred and there is no threat of a destructive tsunami affecting BC. Information Statements may be used to prevent unnecessary concern when an earthquake has occurred but there is no tsunami threat.

5. *Cancellation:*

A cancellation cancels any previously issued tsunami messages. It is issued when there is no longer observed evidence of tsunami waves at tide gauge stations. Local conditions may differ from those at tide gauge stations and local authorities should determine the safety of coastlines. Cancellations are the final tsunami message issued by Emergency Management BC (EMBC).

Education - What to do

1. The sirens are intended to be used to warn of a dangerous situation on base or as a warning for the unlikely event of a when a tsunami is approaching the Esquimalt shoreline. In the latter case, the focus of the sirens will be to warn those who are in the harbour or an inundation zone.
2. If you hear the WAIL TONE accompanied with the Tsunami Alert Voice Message, it is your signal to get to higher ground or to move inland. Note: if you feel the earth shaking, get to higher ground immediately and do NOT wait for the tone.
3. If you hear the WAIL TONE accompanied with the Evacuation Warning Voice Message, it is your signal to leave the base. Depart the base using the most expeditious means as is safe and practicable. Seek out information as to the nature of the evacuation using all available means, local radio, social media etc...
4. If you hear the SHELTER TONE accompanied with the Shelter Voice Message, it is your signal to seek shelter indoors as quickly as possible. Seek out information as to the nature of the emergency using all available means, local radio, social media etc...
As a precaution if asked to take shelter personnel should shut doors and windows and turn off ventilation!
5. If you hear the SHELTER TONE (shortened to 15 seconds) accompanied with the LOCKDOWN Voice Message, it is your signal to commence lockdown procedures. Seek out information as to the nature of the emergency using all available means, including local radio, social media etc. **As a precaution if asked to take shelter personnel should shut doors and windows and turn off ventilation!**

Siren Tests

SIREN AND EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM TESTING WILL TAKE PLACE BETWEEN 2 – 6 FEBRUARY 2015

Contractor testing for CFB Esquimalt's Mass Notification System will take place Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. – If you hear the siren / emergency alert system during this period, please disregard. If you hear the siren at any other time, tune to any local radio or television station for information and stand-by for instructions from emergency management officials. If a real emergency occurs during the tests, a voice message will indicate "this is not a drill" and local Emergency Management Officials will be contacted immediately. After these trials are completed the system will be tested at 11 am on the first Wednesday of each month commencing March 4th. If you have any immediate questions, comments or concerns, please contact CFB Esquimalt's public affairs office (**Phone:** 250-363-4006 **After Hours:** 250-888-6775) or visit our website <http://www.navy-marine.forces.gc.ca/en/about/structure-marpac-units.page> click on MNS tab.