NEW EMERGENCY ALERT SIRENS TO BE TESTED APRIL 21ST
Township Expands Community Alerting Siren & Network System to Breslau & St Jacobs

The Township of Woolwich, as part of its expansion of the Community Alert Network (CAN) into Breslau and St Jacobs, will be doing a test of the siren systems on Monday April 21st at approximately 7:00pm.

Both the Breslau and St. Jacobs stations of the Woolwich Fire Department will be testing the sirens for 15-30 seconds during their regular training sessions to simulate the future test usage of the siren. On Thursday May 8th, during Emergency Preparedness Week, the Township will be testing the sirens again, this time for 3 minutes, to simulate the siren usage during an actual emergency. Further details on these tests will be released in the coming weeks.

The purpose of expanding the siren program is to couple it with the Community Alerting Network (CAN) system for the Township’s other significant settlements in order to alert residents to potential or real emergencies such as major fires, chemical releases, or severe weather events.

A system that alerts residents of potential threats, both through a siren and a direct message to their home or cell phone, makes the Township a leader in Emergency Management public notifications in the Province of Ontario.

After the April 21st test, going forward, the siren will be tested by the Fire Department every second Monday evening at 7:00 pm for 15-30 seconds. If residents hear the siren outside this specified time frame and for longer than 15-30 seconds, they are asked to go indoors, take shelter-in-place, keep their phone lines open and wait for the Community Alert Message.

To assist with the purchase and implementation of the Breslau siren, local business Safety Kleen provided funding to the Township of Woolwich. The partnership and leadership of companies such as Safety Kleen in Breslau and Chemtura and CCC in Elmira have helped Woolwich to establish such a robust and comprehensive Emergency Management program in the Township.

“Expanding the siren program to Breslau and St. Jacobs to accompany our progressive Community Alert Network system is a way in which the Township can further protect the health and wellbeing of Woolwich residents” said Todd Cowan, Mayor of Woolwich Township. “As a Township, we will continue to be pro-active leaders in the field of Municipal emergency management and public notification, looking at new and innovative ways to complement our program”.

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