

Siren warning

When a major accident or a disaster involves an acute danger of human injury or property damage, it is possible to warn the Danish population of such risk by means of Denmark's national electronic siren warning system.

Siren warning system

Beredskabsstyrelsen operates and maintains the siren warning system.

The system has a total of 1,078 sirens covering about 80% of the Danish population. A separate uninterruptible power supply allows the sirens to work in the event of a power failure.

The sirens are fixed to buildings or poles in cities and urban areas with more than 1,000 people. Outside these areas, the police may decide to use mobile sirens.

Police warnings

In the event of a major accident or a disaster, the police may decide to use the sirens. This will also send an emergency message to DR (the Danish Broadcasting Corporation) and TV2.

The police will start the sirens. They are able to warn the entire population in one operation, as they do in the annual drill of the siren warning system (this drill always takes place on the first Wednesday in May at 12 noon).



The siren warning system may be used in the event of a major accident or a disaster.

The siren warning system can also be used in regional or local areas, where the police will start the sirens individually and so warn specific areas.

All sirens are tested every night (but with no sound).

What to do?

At the sound of the sirens, go inside, close all doors and windows, turn off ventilation systems and listen to DR or TV2.

Preferably make sure that all bystanders have understood the warning signal.

DR and TV2 will now inform the population of the situation, issuing instructions of what to do. These messages will originate from the police or other authorities.

DR and TV2 will also teletext relevant information:

DR: See pages 597 and 598.
TV2: See pages 893 and 894.

Signals

The sirens produce a special sound signal to warn of a danger situation.

This signal consists of a sound that rises fast and then slows down gradually. This sound is produced a total of four times, lasting 45 seconds.

The danger signal is illustrated like this:



The siren warning system will also be used when the danger is over. The system will produce another sound to signal the end of the danger situation.

This sound signal is one long uniform tone lasting 45 seconds.

When this signal has sounded, you can safely go outside again.

The sound signalling the end of the danger situation is illustrated like this:

