

GRETNA SIRENS

Gretna has 5 sirens located around the corporate limits:

- North Park baseball field
- South Pointe commercial development (near Runza)
- Leo Royal Park
- Nebraska Crossings Outlet Mall
- City Hall

You will hear the sirens sound in Gretna for three reasons:

- The sirens are tested on the first Saturday of each month at 10:00 AM
- Severe weather
- Fire and Rescue calls

There are two distinct sounds to the siren which indicate two very different reasons. When you hear a long steady tone, you are receiving notification of a severe weather alert and you should take immediate cover. When you hear repeated up and down tones, all fire and rescue volunteers are called to the fire station.

From time to time, the staff of the City of Gretna hears complaints from citizens regarding the “noise pollution” produced by the sirens. We would like to offer an explanation:

Gretna has a volunteer fire/rescue system. This means that the fire station is never staffed but is dependent on volunteers responding to “calls”. These Fire Fighting & Emergency Medical Service (EMS) volunteers do carry pagers with them 24 hours a day, 7 days a week however, in an effort to increase effective response time for the safety of the citizens of Gretna, the sirens are sounded between the hours of 8AM and 6PM to augment the pagers on calls. Many fire fighters and EMS have heard the sirens before their pagers go off and have responded accordingly. The Fire Chief, Mayor, and City Council believe that any method to increase response time is best practice.

Mayor McGuire reminds us that if you are driving when you hear the fire and rescue siren sound, please increase your awareness as the volunteers will be driving as quickly as the law permits to arrive at the fire station in the timeliest manner possible.

The City of Gretna and the Gretna Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department appreciates your understanding of the reasoning behind blowing the sirens. Gretna’s Fire Chief reminds us that when the sirens sound, people should say a little prayer. The sirens sounding indicate that someone is in trouble. The sirens are not meant to annoy people with the increased noise - they are a means of additional public safety so that fire/rescue volunteers can help your loved ones.