

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 29, 2015**  
**CONTACT: Mayor Gloria Hanson, 605-223-7690**  
**mayorhanson@fortpierre.com**

## **New Sirens Provide More Efficient and Timely Emergency Messages to Fort Pierre Residents**

Residents of Fort Pierre and the Frontier Road area of Stanley County will notice a change in how emergency siren messages will be conveyed. New outdoor sirens have been installed and were tested last week. Residents will now distinguish the difference between fire sirens which will run for 60 seconds and severe weather sirens which will run for three full minutes.

Operated from the 911 dispatch center, these new sirens are larger and can transmit 16 pre-recorded messages to the public. The sirens have several features that will alert the public about severe weather watches or warnings, including tornadoes. Networked with a program called weather warn, this new technology can also alert residents about hazardous material spills. On patriotic holidays, the sirens can air music such as *The Star Spangled Banner*.

City officials can also send out live messages to the community to alert residents of snow removal or when their streets will be cleaned, for example. In the event of power failure, one siren system is solar powered and the other systems are equipped with battery backup.

In the future the city will be able to set the sirens to automatically sound whenever the National Weather Service puts out a severe weather or tornado warning in the area. As a back-up plan, citizens can also go to the **Hughes/Stanley County Emergency Management Weather Warning** Facebook page and receive information when the sirens are sounding.

As a precaution, though these outdoor messages may be heard inside homes, they are not designed to transmit messages through large buildings. Officials encourage you to have a secondary source to alert you of severe weather.

The new siren system was made possible by a grant from Homeland Security to Stanley County and the City of Fort Pierre, and through the technical assistance of Hughes/Stanley County Emergency Management Office.

For more information: 605-773-7454 or Rob.Fines@co.hughes.sd.us

###