What to do when a siren sounds
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Dear Cologners,

This flyer is intended to inform you about the meaning of siren signals and the corresponding directions you should absolutely observe in case of emergency. It also contains additional references to important phone numbers, local radio stations or the municipality’s home page (www.stadt-koeln.de) where you can find further information.

The siren network in Cologne is operated and maintained by the municipality of Cologne. The command centre of the professional fire brigade is the one to sound the sirens. The commander of the fire brigade will
sound the sirens to warn you when detecting any hazard for the population. This can be possible, e.g., in the event of any leakage of hazardous substances, in case of fire or after an accident. An alert can also be given to warn of a sudden flood wave in the Rhine river or its smaller tributaries in Cologne.

The siren signal is used as a wake-up call to the people staying in the area possibly exposed to a hazard. Everyone in that area should first go to an enclosed room, shut windows and doors and turn off any ventilation system. After this, the fire brigade will provide addi-
tional information through the information channels described. Please note that, depending on the information medium used, it can take some time for the information to become available.

Siren function is tested by the fire brigade every three months. These test alarms will be announced in the media beforehand, and will always take place on Saturdays, normally at 12 am. This is done to make certain that the sirens will work in case of emergency. So, these tests also help to ensure your own security.
Warning and information to Cologne’s inhabitants

How a warning is given:
Howling sound increasing and decreasing for one minute

All-clear: one-minute continuous sound

What do to when a siren alert sounds:
- Close windows and doors
- Go to a higher floor (if available)
- Turn off any air conditioning or forced ventilation system
- Admit other people to your house (strangers)
- Stay like that until the all-clear is given by a one-minute continuous sound

Information:
- Switch on your radio (battery-powered, car radio)
- Radio Köln (107.1 MHz) (information available immediately or a few minutes after the siren signal)
- WDR 2 (100.4 MHz) (information possibly available after some time only)
- On the Internet, go to www.stadt-koeln.de
- Cologne service app
- twitter
- facebook
Community helpline

Fire brigade 0700 0221 1111

Municipality Dial 0221 / 221-0
or the citizens services line 115.

For further information and to hear an audio sample:

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Der Oberbürgermeister

Berufsfeuerwehr, Amt für Feuerschutz, Rettungsdienst und Bevölkerungsschutz
Amt für Presse- und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit

Gestaltung
rheinsatz, Köln

Druck
Zentrale Dienste, Stadt Köln

13-js/37/1.000/02.2015