



Kenai Peninsula Borough
Office of Emergency Management

MEMORANDUM

TO: Charlie Pierce, Mayor
THRU: Brenda Ahlberg, Emergency Manager 
FROM: Bud Sexton, OEM Operations Manager 
DATE: 03/25/2022
RE: Update on the Siren Warning System

The Office of Emergency Management would like to provide you with an update on the Siren Warning System and several actions currently underway. The goal of these actions are to continue improving upon the resiliency and redundancy of the Siren System when emergency notifications are required.

In February the borough awarded a contract in the amount of \$19,386.40 to HQE Systems Inc. to perform a full assessment of the Siren Warning System. HQE will perform the onsite assessment of all 14 siren sites across the borough during the first two weeks of April, with their final report due at the end of April.

The HQE assessment plan will provide critical information to help OEM determine the next steps for the siren system that includes improvements to the current equipment as well as a gap analysis based upon new system requirements. HQE is familiar with numerous siren systems, equipment options, and various components used in the siren activation process. We are excited to see the perspectives and recommendations from an outside contractor perspective.

A resolution will go before the assembly April 5th to approve the Memorandum of Agreements with the municipalities of Homer, Seldovia, and Seward. These agreements will formalize the cost, maintenance, and operations of the sirens plus a path forward for any additional sirens which may be added. The city of Homer has signed the MOA and the cities of Seward and Seldovia are currently reviewing the MOAs.

Lastly, In January OEM submitted a grant application through AK Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management to install two new sirens in Anchor Point and in Fox River areas. Award announcements are anticipated in September 2022. Additionally, our plans this year involve the consideration of adding sirens to augment existing locations. This process would include an acoustics study as well as discussions with municipalities and communities regarding the location of any additional sirens. The University of Fairbanks and the Alaska Earthquake Center have recently revised their modeling of potential tsunami inundation zones that will factor into these discussions.