

Kenai Peninsula Borough  
Office of Emergency Management

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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Charlie Pierce, Mayor  
**THRU:** Brenda Ahlberg, Emergency Manager *gm BS*  
**FROM:** Bud Sexton, Operations Manager  
**DATE:** September 24, 2021  
**RE:** Tsunami Siren System Upgrades

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This memo is to provide you with an update on recent steps to create additional layers of redundancy in the tsunami siren warning system. This is a multi-year process with several phases that once completed, will add to the technological performance and redundancy of the siren system.

About a month ago, Office of Emergency Management (OEM) contracted with Federal Signal to visit all of the borough siren locations during a week-long visit to install and service the tsunami sirens with a new satellite receiver upgrade package; there are a total of 14 siren locations. The upgrade project included the deployment of three new computer servers, new cabinets, wiring, and installing new satellite receivers and aligning the receivers with satellites to achieve the necessary signal strength. Satellite receivers provide an additional method whereby OEM can activate the tsunami sirens as necessary.

While most of the upgrades were immediately online, we learned that some of the locations need additional steps to be taken before the desired satellite signal strength can be maintained. Some of the steps include bringing in specialized equipment to place the satellite receiver much higher on the pole, additional wiring, or perhaps trimming trees that obstruct the view to the satellite in orbit.

We are currently in discussions with Federal Signal for a return visit to bring additional satellite receivers online. Enhancements to the tsunami siren system require a considered investment of time and resources, and we are continually engaged with the Federal Signal team to ensure we always have a fully functional warning system.