Alert Johnson County

The Team

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Project Summary

Alert Johnson County was established as a Leadership Johnson County 2016-17 Class Project Team. The Team wanted a project that would have a significant and lasting impact on Johnson County and its residents. Safety is a significant area in which The Team could have such an impact. There are currently many outdoor weather sirens in Johnson County. However, we were unable to determine where they were, how they were managed, and what area of warning coverage they provided. This solidified our direction.



The Team selected several objectives

- 1. Create a map with siren locations, siren buffer areas, population densities, and shelter locations
- 2. Determine where additional sirens are needed for current and future populations
- 3. Work with the JCEMA to submit for grant approval to install another siren
- 4. Work with the eleven (11) fire departments to host an event to raise tornado safety awareness

With the Project and Objectives defined, the work started. The Team worked with Tom Maggard, GIS Technician, from the City of Greenwood Community Development Services. Tom took our ideas and visions and created a map which includes the siren locations, pictures of the actual sirens, buffer areas, and shelter locations.

The Team also met with Rick Littleton, Superintendent, Franklin Department of Public Works, and Stephanie Sichting, Director, Johnson County Emergency Management, who provided a tour of the Johnson County EMA offices and 911 Public Safety Answering Point centers. Rick and Stephanie provided many details of the current system and what their needs actually are prompting a slight adjustment in our project framework.

Results

With the help of resources external to The Team, a map was created. Planning for future sirens in optimal locations will become easier with the use of this map. The map will be maintained by JCEMA with continued support and information from the fire departments, including siren and shelter additions. The Team did submit a Letter of Intent for Johnson County Community Foundation BIGs Grant (Community Impact) to be considered to apply for a grant to upgrade a couple of the sirens, however, our request was not accepted at this time.

The Team was also able to host a Lunch & Learn Session on Emergency Management Resources in Johnson County to share the Project and Map details with the County Fire Departments and Municipalities.

