

Outdoor Warning Siren Activation & Policy Survey

April 2025

April 21, 2025

To the Members of the Iowa Emergency Management Association:

Last year, IEMA members requested a follow-up survey be conducted regarding the usage of outdoor warning sirens in the State of Iowa. Unfortunately, the severe flooding that affected portions of the state delayed the survey until March 2025.

The 2025 survey covered the following topics:

- Where Coordinators monitor severe weather
- Using Slack to communicate with the NWS
- The total number of sirens in the county
- Activation criteria for straight-line winds
- Activation criteria for hail
- Who can activate the sirens
- Activation policies
- How sirens are activated
- Whether or not automatic activation software is used and what brand
- Whether or not the county follows the *IEMA Outdoor Warning Siren Best Practices* document published in 2015
- Whether or not the county would be open to evaluating/adjusting criteria based on a recommendation from an integrated warning committee

The survey used Google Forms and was made available to the membership via a link in an e-mail sent by IEMA President Chris Showalter on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 8:51 a.m. The survey was closed on Monday, April 14, 2025, at which time the results were tabulated. A total of 59 counties (60%) responded to the survey, down from 66 counties (67%) that responded in 2019.

The results are contained in this document within the following sections:

- Survey Questions
- Raw Survey Results
- Charts & Maps

Results from the 2019 survey along with the OWS Best Practice document can be found on the Association documents website at iowaema.us under the *Studies & Surveys* section.

If you have questions regarding the survey or the results presented here, please contact Michael Ehret at 712-336-3987 or by e-mail at mike@dcem.us.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ME', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Michael Ehret, Coordinator
Dickinson County Emergency Management

Survey Questions

1. County *

If you are the EM for multiple counties, please complete the survey for each county.

⌵ Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ ADAIR
- ☐ ADAMS
- ☐ ALLAMAKEE
- ☐ APPANOOSE
- ☐ AUDUBON
- ☐ BENTON
- ☐ BLACK HAWK
- ☐ BOONE
- ☐ BREMER
- ☐ BUCHANAN
- ☐ BUENA VISTA
- ☐ BUTLER
- ☐ CALHOUN
- ☐ CARROLL
- ☐ CASS
- ☐ CEDAR
- ☐ CERRO GORDO
- ☐ CHEROKEE
- ☐ CHICKASAW
- ☐ CLARKE
- ☐ CLAY
- ☐ CLAYTON
- ☐ CLINTON
- ☐ CRAWFORD
- ☐ DALLAS
- ☐ DAVIS
- ☐ DECATUR
- ☐ DELAWARE

- ☐ DES MOINES
- ☐ DICKINSON
- ☐ DUBUQUE
- ☐ EMMET
- ☐ FAYETTE
- ☐ FLOYD
- ☐ FRANKLIN
- ☐ FREMONT
- ☐ GREENE
- ☐ GRUNDY
- ☐ GUTHRIE
- ☐ HAMILTON
- ☐ HANCOCK
- ☐ HARDIN
- ☐ HARRISON
- ☐ HENRY
- ☐ HOWARD
- ☐ HUMBOLDT
- ☐ IDA
- ☐ IOWA
- ☐ JACKSON
- ☐ JASPER
- ☐ JEFFERSON
- ☐ JOHNSON
- ☐ JONES
- ☐ KEOKUK
- ☐ KOSSUTH
- ☐ LEE
- ☐ LINN
- ☐ LOUISA
- ☐ LUCAS
- ☐ LYON
- ☐ MADISON

- ☐ MAHASKA
- ☐ MARION
- ☐ MARSHALL
- ☐ MILLS
- ☐ MITCHELL
- ☐ MONONA
- ☐ MONROE
- ☐ MONTGOMERY
- ☐ MUSCATINE
- ☐ O'BRIEN
- ☐ OSCEOLA
- ☐ PAGE
- ☐ PALO ALTO
- ☐ PLYMOUTH
- ☐ POCAHONTAS
- ☐ POLK
- ☐ POTTAWATTAMIE
- ☐ POWESHIEK
- ☐ RINGGOLD
- ☐ SAC
- ☐ SCOTT
- ☐ SHELBY
- ☐ SIOUX
- ☐ STORY
- ☐ TAMA
- ☐ TAYLOR
- ☐ UNION
- ☐ VAN BUREN
- ☐ WAPELLO
- ☐ WARREN
- ☐ WASHINGTON
- ☐ WAYNE
- ☐ WEBSTER

- ☐ WINNEBAGO
- ☐ WINNESHIEK
- ☐ WOODBURY
- ☐ WORTH
- ☐ WRIGHT

2. What do you do during severe weather? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Monitor from EOC/Office
- ☐ Mobile Storm Spotter
- ☐ Monitor from Home
- ☐ Other: _____

3. Do you use Slack to communicate with the NWS? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Regularly
- ☐ Just during Severe Weather
- ☐ No

4. How many outdoor warning sirens are in your county? *

Enter numbers only; no letters or punctuation

5. If your county activates sirens for straight-line winds, what is the speed threshold required for activation? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ 65 mph
☐ 70 mph
☐ 75 mph
☐ 80 mph
☐ 85 mph
☐ We don't activate for straight-line winds
☐ Other: _____

6. If your county activates sirens for hail, what is the size threshold required for activation? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ 1½ inches (Walnut/Ping Pong Ball)
☐ 1¾ inches (Golf ball)
☐ 2 inches (Lime/Hen Egg)
☐ 2½ inches (Tennis Ball)
☐ 2¾ inches (Baseball)
☐ 3 inches (Large Apple)
☐ 3½ inches
☐ 4 inches (Softball)
☐ 4½ inches (Grapefruit)
☐ 4¾ inches (CD/DVD)
☐ 5 inches
☐ We don't activate sirens for hail
☐ Other: _____

7. How can sirens be activated in your county? *

Select all that apply.

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Dispatch
- ☐ EOC
- ☐ Manually by each city/entity
- ☐ We do not have sirens
- ☐ Other: _____

8. Does your county use an automatic system/software for siren activation? *

Example: Federal Signal Commander, Storm Sentry, etc.

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

9. If you use an automatic system/software, what system do you use?

10. When it has been determined that sirens need to be sounded, which ones are activated in your county?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Only those within the warning polygon
- ☐ All Sirens
- ☐ Other: _____

11. Do you have a county-wide siren activation policy or does it vary by city/town? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Countywide
☐ Varies by City/Town

12. In 2015, IEMA adopted the "Outdoor Warning Siren Best Practices Recommendation" document. Does your county follow these recommendations? *

The document can be downloaded here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TFOrt0pvBmWXdWREXhvaHR_oQLQHWP8C/view?usp=sharing

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ We follow it completely
☐ We follow parts of it
☐ We don't follow any of it
☐ I haven't seen this document

13. Research shows improved response with consistency in messaging. Would your organization be open to evaluating and possibly adjusting outdoor warning siren criteria, based upon a recommendation from an integrated warning committee, with representatives from media, IEMA and NWS? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

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Google Forms

Raw Survey Results

County	What do you do during severe weather?	Do you use Slack to communicate with the NWS?	How many outdoor warning sirens are in your county?	If your county activates sirens for straight-line winds, what is the speed threshold required for activation?	If your county activates sirens for hail, what is the size threshold required for activation?	How can sirens be activated in your county?	Does your county use an automatic system/software for siren activation?	If you use an automatic system/software, what system do you use?	When it has been determined that sirens need to be sounded, which ones are activated in your county?	Do you have a county-wide siren activation policy or does it vary by city/town?	In 2015, IEMA adopted the "Outdoor Warning Siren Best Practices Recommendation" document. Does your county follow these recommendations?	...Would your organization be open to evaluating and ... adjusting outdoor warning siren criteria, based upon a recommendation from an integrated warning committee...?
ADAIR	Mobile Storm Spotter	Regularly	10	We do not typically, it has been done on a case by case basis.	We don't activate sirens for hail	Dispatch; Manually by each city/entity	No		Only those within the warning polygon	Varies by City/Town	We follow parts of it	Yes
ADAMS	Monitor from EOC/Office	Regularly	3	We don't activate for straight-line winds	We don't activate sirens for hail	Dispatch	No		Only those within the warning polygon	Varies by City/Town	I haven't seen this document	Yes
ALLAMAKEE	Monitor from EOC/Office	Just during Severe Weather	12	70 mph	1 3/4 inches (Golf ball)	Dispatch; Manually by each city/entity	No		Only those within the warning polygon	Countywide	We follow parts of it	Yes
APPANOOSE	All of the above depending on forecasting/need	Just during Severe Weather	7	70 mph	2 inches (Lime/Hen Egg)	Dispatch; EOC; Manually by each city/entity	No		Only those within the warning polygon	Countywide	We follow it completely	Yes
AUDUBON	Mobile Storm Spotter	Regularly	8	We don't activate for straight-line winds	We don't activate sirens for hail	Two cities are activated by dispatch and 3 cities are manual or radio by fire departments	No		Only those within the warning polygon	Varies by City/Town	I haven't seen this document	Yes
BENTON	Monitor from EOC/Office	Just during Severe Weather	21	70 mph	We don't activate sirens for hail	Dispatch; EOC; Manually by each city/entity	No		Only those within the warning polygon	Countywide	I haven't seen this document	Yes
BOONE	Monitor from EOC/Office	Just during Severe Weather	22	70 mph	1 3/4 inches (Golf ball)	Dispatch	No		Only those within the warning polygon	Countywide	We follow it completely	Yes
BUCHANAN	Monitor from EOC/Office	Regularly	11	70 mph	We don't activate sirens for hail	Dispatch; Manually by each city/entity	No		Only those within the warning polygon	Varies by City/Town	We follow parts of it	Yes
BUENA VISTA	Combination of all 3. Depends on circumstances.	Just during Severe Weather	19	We don't activate for straight-line winds	We don't activate sirens for hail	Dispatch	No		Only those within the warning polygon	Countywide	We follow parts of it	Yes

County	What do you do during severe weather?	Do you use Slack to communicate with the NWS?	How many outdoor warning sirens are in your county?	If your county activates sirens for straight-line winds, what is the speed threshold required for activation?	If your county activates sirens for hail, what is the size threshold required for activation?	How can sirens be activated in your county?	Does your county use an automatic system/software for siren activation?	If you use an automatic system/software, what system do you use?	When it has been determined that sirens need to be sounded, which ones are activated in your county?	Do you have a county-wide siren activation policy or does it vary by city/town?	In 2015, IEMA adopted the "Outdoor Warning Siren Best Practices Recommendation" document. Does your county follow these recommendations?	...Would your organization be open to evaluating and ... adjusting outdoor warning siren criteria, based upon a recommendation from an integrated warning committee...?
BUTLER	Mobile Storm Spotter	Just during Severe Weather	14	75 mph	1 1/4 inches (Golf ball)	Dispatch; Manually by each city/entity	No		Only those within the warning polygon	Countywide	We follow parts of it	Yes
CALHOUN	Mobile Storm Spotter	Regularly	15	75 mph	1 1/4 inches (Golf ball)	Dispatch; EOC; Cell phone app	Yes	Federal Commander One	Only those within the warning polygon	Countywide	I haven't seen this document	Yes
CARROLL	Mobile Storm Spotter	Regularly	28	70 mph	2 inches (Lime/Hen Egg)	Dispatch; Manually by each city/entity	No		Only those within the warning polygon	Countywide	We follow parts of it	Yes
CERRO GORDO	All of the above.	Regularly	33	70 mph	1 1/4 inches (Golf ball)	Dispatch; EOC; Automated	Yes	American Signal Computert NEXGen	Can be all sirens but when automated, only sirens within the polygon.	Countywide	We follow parts of it	Yes
CHICKASAW	Mobile Storm Spotter	Just during Severe Weather	10	70 mph	1 1/4 inches (Golf ball)	Dispatch; Manually by each city/entity	No		All Sirens	Countywide	We follow it completely	Yes
CLINTON	Depends on the situation and timing	Just during Severe Weather	7	70 mph	1 1/4 inches (Golf ball)	Dispatch; Backup in Scott County	No	Used to	All sirens. They are all together now.	Countywide	We follow it completely	Yes
DALLAS	Monitor from EOC/Office	Regularly	57	70 mph	We don't activate sirens for hail	Dispatch	Yes	WeatherWarn	Only those within the warning polygon	Countywide	We follow parts of it	Yes
DAVIS	All of the above depending on forecast severity and need	Regularly	5	70 mph	2 inches (Lime/Hen Egg)	Dispatch; EOC; Manually by each city/entity	No		Only those within the warning polygon	Countywide	We follow parts of it	Yes
DECATUR	Monitor from Home	Regularly	15	70 mph	2 1/4 inches (Baseball)	Dispatch; EOC; Manually by each city/entity	Yes		Only those within the warning polygon	Countywide	We follow it completely	Yes

County	What do you do during severe weather?	Do you use Slack to communicate with the NWS?	How many outdoor warning sirens are in your county?	If your county activates sirens for straight-line winds, what is the speed threshold required for activation?	If your county activates sirens for hail, what is the size threshold required for activation?	How can sirens be activated in your county?	Does your county use an automatic system/software for siren activation?	If you use an automatic system/software, what system do you use?	When it has been determined that sirens need to be sounded, which ones are activated in your county?	Do you have a county-wide siren activation policy or does it vary by city/town?	In 2016, IEMA adopted the "Outdoor Warning Siren Best Practices Recommendation" document. Does your county follow these recommendations?	...Would your organization be open to evaluating and ... adjusting outdoor warning siren criteria, based upon a recommendation from an integrated warning committee...?
DELAWARE	Monitor from EOC/Office	Regularly	15	70 mph	1 1/4 inches (Golf ball)	Dispatch; Manually by each city/entity	No		Only those within the warning polygon	Countywide	We follow it completely	Yes
DES MOINES	Monitor from Home	Regularly	16	70 mph	1 1/4 inches (Golf ball)	Dispatch; Manually by each city/entity	No		All Sirens	Countywide	I haven't seen this document	Yes
DICKINSON	Mobile Storm Spotter	Regularly	35	80 mph	2 1/4 inches (Baseball)	Dispatch	Yes	Federal Signal Commander	Only those within the warning polygon	Countywide	We follow parts of it	Yes
DUBUQUE	Monitor from EOC/Office	Just during Severe Weather	46	70 mph	1 1/4 inches (Golf ball)	Dispatch; EOC; Manually by each city/entity	No	n/a	Only those within the warning polygon	Countywide	We follow parts of it	Yes
FRANKLIN	Monitor from EOC/Office	Just during Severe Weather	15	70 mph	1 1/4 inches (Golf ball)	Dispatch	No		Only those within the warning polygon	Countywide	We follow parts of it	Yes
FREMONT	Monitor from Home	Regularly	9	We don't activate for straight-line winds	We don't activate sirens for hail	Dispatch; Manually by each city/entity	No		Only those within the warning polygon	Countywide	I haven't seen this document	Yes
GRUNDY	Combination of all three	Regularly	11	Chiefs Discretion	We don't activate sirens for hail	Dispatch; Manually by each city/entity	No		Only those within the warning polygon	Varies by City/Town	I haven't seen this document	Yes
GUTHRIE	Mobile Storm Spotter	Regularly	18	We don't activate for straight-line winds	We don't activate sirens for hail	Dispatch; Manually by each city/entity	No		Only those within the warning polygon	Varies by City/Town	We follow parts of it	Yes
HAMILTON	Monitor from EOC/Office	Regularly	9	80 mph	2 inches (Lime/Hen Egg)	Manually by each city/entity	No		Only those within the warning polygon	Varies by City/Town	I haven't seen this document	No

County	What do you do during severe weather?	Do you use Slack to communicate with the NWS?	How many outdoor warning sirens are in your county?	If your county activates sirens for straight-line winds, what is the speed threshold required for activation?	If your county activates sirens for hail, what is the size threshold required for activation?	How can sirens be activated in your county?	Does your county use an automatic system/software for siren activation?	If you use an automatic system/software, what system do you use?	When it has been determined that sirens need to be sounded, which ones are activated in your county?	Do you have a county-wide siren activation policy or does it vary by city/town?	In 2016, JEMA adopted the "Outdoor Warning Siren Best Practices Recommendation" document. Does your county follow these recommendations?	...Would your organization be open to evaluating and ... adjusting outdoor warning siren criteria, based upon a recommendation from an integrated warning committee...?
HENRY	Monitor from Home	Just during Severe Weather	10	70 mph	1 1/4 inches (Golf ball)	Dispatch	No		Only those within the warning polygon	Countywide	We follow it completely	Yes
HUMBOLDT	Both Spot and / or EOC Office. It depends on the situation	Regularly	23	We don't activate for straight-line winds	We don't activate sirens for hail	Dispatch; Manually by each city/entity	Yes	Elite Dispatch System	All Sirens	Countywide	I haven't seen this document	Yes
IOWA	Mobile Storm Spotter	No	20	70 mph	2 inches (Lime/Hen Egg)	Dispatch; EOC; Manually by each city/entity	No		Depends on the situation	Countywide	We follow it completely	Yes
JACKSON	Monitor from EOC/Office	Just during Severe Weather	10	70 mph	1 1/4 inches (Walnut/Ping Pong Ball)	Dispatch	No		Only those within the warning polygon	Countywide	We follow it completely	Yes
JASPER	Depends on the situation, typically in dispatch, roam when needed	Regularly	30	80 mph	2 1/4 inches (Baseball)	Dispatch; EOC; Manually by each city/entity	No		Only those within the warning polygon	Countywide	We follow parts of it	Yes
JEFFERSON	Monitor from EOC/Office	Just during Severe Weather	7	70 mph	2 inches (Lime/Hen Egg)	Dispatch;	Yes	Weather Warn	Only those within the warning polygon	Countywide	I haven't seen this document	Yes
JOHNSON	One staff monitors from EOC & one staff is mobile spotter	Just during Severe Weather	70	70 mph	1 1/4 inches (Golf ball)	Dispatch; EOC; some cities can also do their sirens locally or via a FD Chiefs Vehicle or Fire Station or Public Works office	No	NA	Those in the zones (one of four) that most close match the polygon.	Countywide	We follow it completely	Yes
JONES	Monitor from EOC/Office	Regularly	14	We don't activate for straight-line winds	We don't activate sirens for hail	Dispatch; Manually by each city/entity	No		Only those within the warning polygon	Countywide	We don't follow any of it	No
KEOKUK	Monitor from EOC/Office	Just during Severe Weather	11	We don't activate for straight-line winds	We don't activate sirens for hail	Dispatch; Manually by each city/entity	No		Only those within the warning polygon	Varies by City/Town	I haven't seen this document	Yes

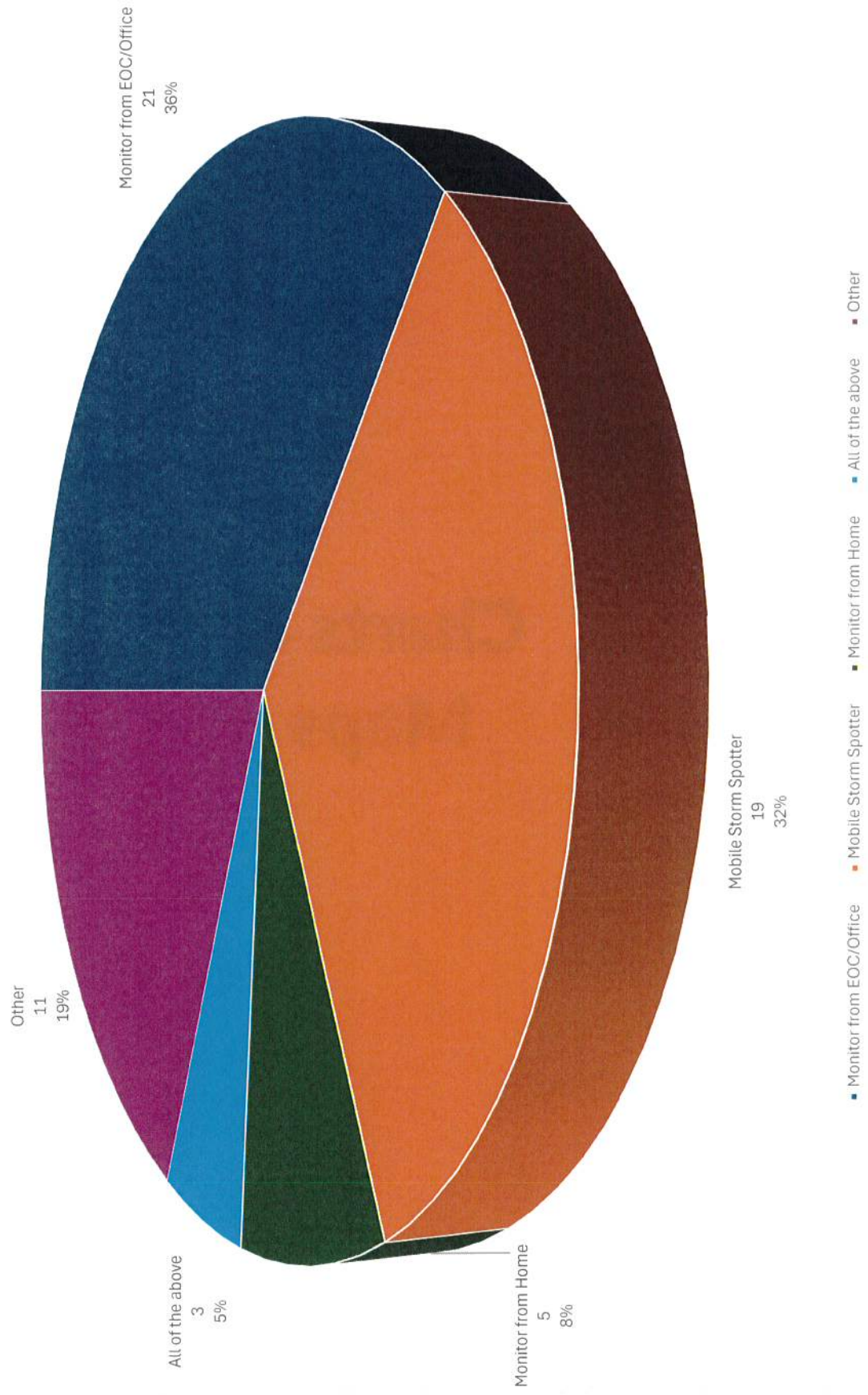
County	What do you do during severe weather?	Do you use Slack to communicate with the NWS?	How many outdoor warning sirens are in your county?	If your county activates sirens for straight-line winds, what is the speed threshold required for activation?	If your county activates sirens for hail, what is the size threshold required for activation?	How can sirens be activated in your county?	Does your county use an automatic system/software for siren activation?	If you use an automatic system/software, what system do you use?	When it has been determined that sirens need to be sounded, which ones are activated in your county?	Do you have a county-wide siren activation policy or does it vary by city/town?	In 2015, IEMA adopted the "Outdoor Warning Siren Best Practices Recommendation" document. Does your county follow these recommendations?	...Would your organization be open to evaluating and ... adjusting outdoor warning siren criteria, based upon a recommendation from an integrated warning committee...?
LINN	Monitor from EOC/office	Regularly	142	70 mph	1 1/4 inches (Golf ball)	Dispatch; EOC; Manually by each city/entity	No		Only those within the warning polygon	Countywide	We follow parts of it	Yes
LUCAS	All of the above depending on forecast severity and need	Regularly	7	70 mph	2 inches (Lime/Hen Egg)	Dispatch; Manually by each city/entity; EMA Vehicle	No		Only those within the warning polygon	Varies by City/Town	We follow parts of it	Yes
MAHASKA	Mobile Storm Spotter	Just during Severe Weather	14	70 mph	1 1/4 inches (Golf ball)	Dispatch	Yes	Rapid Warn	Only those within the warning polygon	Countywide	We follow parts of it	Yes
MARSHALL	Combination of all of the above dependent on what type of weather and what events we have going on in the county.	Regularly	19	We don't activate for straight-line winds	We don't activate sirens for hail	Dispatch; EOC; Manually by each city/entity; Mobile app	Yes	Commander	Only those within the warning polygon	Countywide	We follow parts of it	Yes
MITCHELL	Mobile Storm Spotter	Just during Severe Weather	10	We don't activate for straight-line winds	We don't activate sirens for hail	Dispatch; Manually by each city/entity; Communications trailer	No		Only those within the warning polygon	Varies by City/Town	I haven't seen this document	Yes
MONONA	Monitor from EOC/office	No	13	70 mph	We don't activate sirens for hail	Dispatch; Manually by each city/entity	No		Only those within the warning polygon	Countywide	We follow parts of it	No
MONROE	All of the above depending on forecast severity and need	Regularly	5	70 mph	2 inches (Lime/Hen Egg)	Dispatch; Manually by each city/entity; Remotely by EMA vehicle if needed	No		Only those within the warning polygon	Countywide	We follow parts of it	Yes
MONTGOMERY	Mobile Storm Spotter	Regularly	12	80 mph	2 inches (Lime/Hen Egg)	Dispatch	No		Only those within the warning polygon	Countywide	We follow parts of it	Yes

County	What do you do during severe weather?	Do you use Slack to communicate with the NWS?	How many outdoor warning sirens are in your county?	If your county activates sirens for straight-line winds, what is the speed threshold required for activation?	If your county activates sirens for hail, what is the size threshold required for activation?	How can sirens be activated in your county?	Does your county use an automatic system/software for siren activation?	If you use an automatic system/software, what system do you use?	When it has been determined that sirens need to be sounded, which ones are activated in your county?	Do you have a county-wide siren activation policy or does it vary by city/town?	In 2015, IEMA adopted the "Outdoor Warning Siren Best Practices Recommendation" document. Does your county follow these recommendations?	...Would your organization be open to evaluating and ... adjusting outdoor warning siren criteria, based upon a recommendation from an integrated warning committee...?
MUSCATINE	All of the above	Just during Severe Weather	31	70 mph	1 3/4 inches (Golf ball)	Dispatch	No		All Sirens	Countywide	We follow parts of it	Yes
O'BRIEN	Mobile Storm Spotter	Just during Severe Weather	15	70 mph	2 3/4 inches (Baseball)	Dispatch	No		Only those within the warning polygon	Countywide	I haven't seen this document	Yes
PAGE	Monitor from Home	Regularly	11	80 mph	2 3/4 inches (Baseball)	Dispatch; Manually by each city/entity	No		Only those within the warning polygon	Countywide	I haven't seen this document	Yes
PALO ALTO	Mobile Storm Spotter	Just during Severe Weather	20	70 mph	We don't activate sirens for hail	Dispatch; Manually by each city/entity	Yes		Only those within the warning polygon	Countywide	I haven't seen this document	Yes
POLK	Monitor from EOC/Office	Just during Severe Weather	170	70 mph	We don't activate sirens for hail	Dispatch; Manually by each city/entity	Yes	Only about a third of our sirens use an automated system and I don't know the specific vendor.	We activate in zones. Dispatchers do their best to match up the appropriate zones with the polygon.	Countywide	We follow parts of it	Yes
POWESHIEK	Mobile Storm Spotter	Just during Severe Weather	17	75 mph	1 3/4 inches (Golf ball)	Dispatch; Sentry STORM Software	Yes	Sentry STORM	Only those within the warning polygon	Countywide	We follow parts of it	Yes
SIOUX	Mobile Storm Spotter	Just during Severe Weather	25	80 mph	We don't activate sirens for hail	Dispatch; Manually by each city/entity	Yes	Federal Signal	Only those within the warning polygon	Countywide	We follow parts of it	Yes
STORY	Monitor from EOC/Office	Regularly	35	80 mph	2 3/4 inches (Baseball)	Dispatch; Manually by each city/entity	No		Only those within the warning polygon	Countywide	I haven't seen this document	Yes

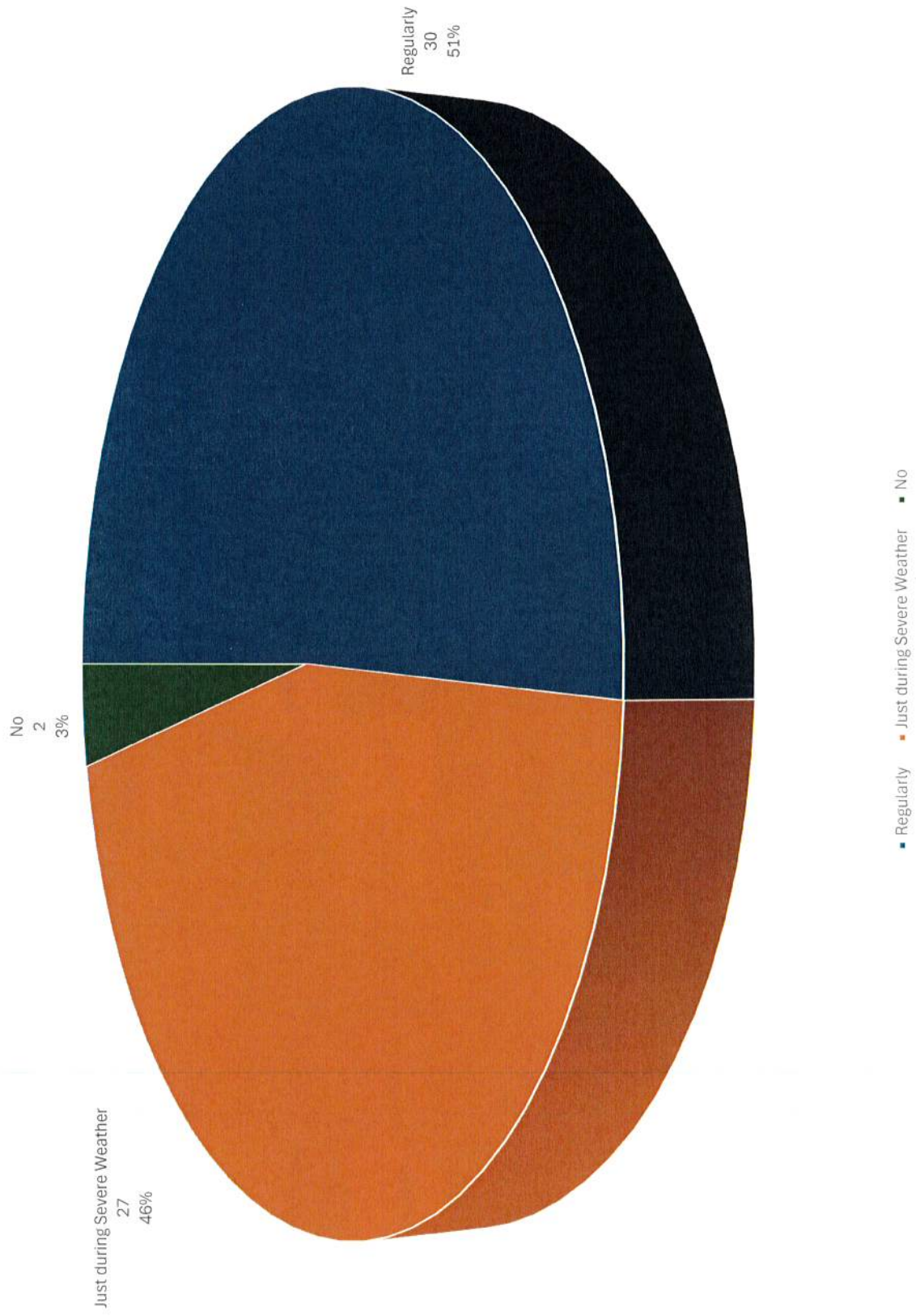
County	What do you do during severe weather?	Do you use Slack to communicate with the NWS?	How many outdoor warning sirens are in your county?	If your county activates sirens for straight-line winds, what is the speed threshold required for activation?	If your county activates sirens for hail, what is the size threshold required for activation?	How can sirens be activated in your county?	Does your county use an automatic system/software for siren activation?	If you use an automatic system/software, what system do you use?	When it has been determined that sirens need to be sounded, which ones are activated in your county?	Do you have a county-wide siren activation policy or does it vary by city/town?	In 2015, IEMA adopted the "Outdoor Warning Siren Best Practices Recommendation" document. Does your county follow these recommendations?	...Would your organization be open to evaluating and ... adjusting outdoor warning siren criteria, based upon a recommendation from an integrated warning committee...?
TAMA	Mobile Storm Spotter	Just during Severe Weather	30	70 mph	We don't activate sirens for hail	Dispatch; Manually by each city/entity	No		Only those within the warning polygon	Varies by City/Town	We follow parts of it	Yes
UNION	Monitor from EOC/Office	Regularly	15	70 mph	1½ inches (Walnut/Ping Pong Ball)	Dispatch; Manually by each city/entity	No		Only those within the warning polygon	Countywide	We follow it completely	Yes
WASHINGTON	Monitor from EOC/Office	Just during Severe Weather	16	70 mph	1¾ inches (Golf ball)	Dispatch	Yes	ASC Compulient Nexgen	Only those within the warning polygon	Countywide	We follow parts of it	No
WAYNE	Mobile Storm Spotter	Just during Severe Weather	6	We don't activate for straight-line winds	We don't activate sirens for hail	Dispatch	No		All Sirens	Countywide	We follow parts of it	Yes
WEBSTER	Mobile Storm Spotter	Regularly	34	70 mph	1¾ inches (Golf ball)	Dispatch; Rapid warn system	Yes	Rapid warn (previously weather warn)	Only those within the warning polygon	Countywide	We follow parts of it	Yes
WOODBURY	Monitor from EOC/Office	Regularly	25	70 mph	1¾ inches (Golf ball)	Dispatch; EOC; Manually by each city/entity	Yes	Integrated at Dispatch	Only those within the warning polygon	Varies by City/Town	We follow it completely	Yes
WORTH	All of the above	Just during Severe Weather	8	If requested by NWS	We don't activate sirens for hail	Dispatch	No		Only those within the warning polygon	Countywide	We follow parts of it	Yes

Charts & Maps

What do you do during severe weather?



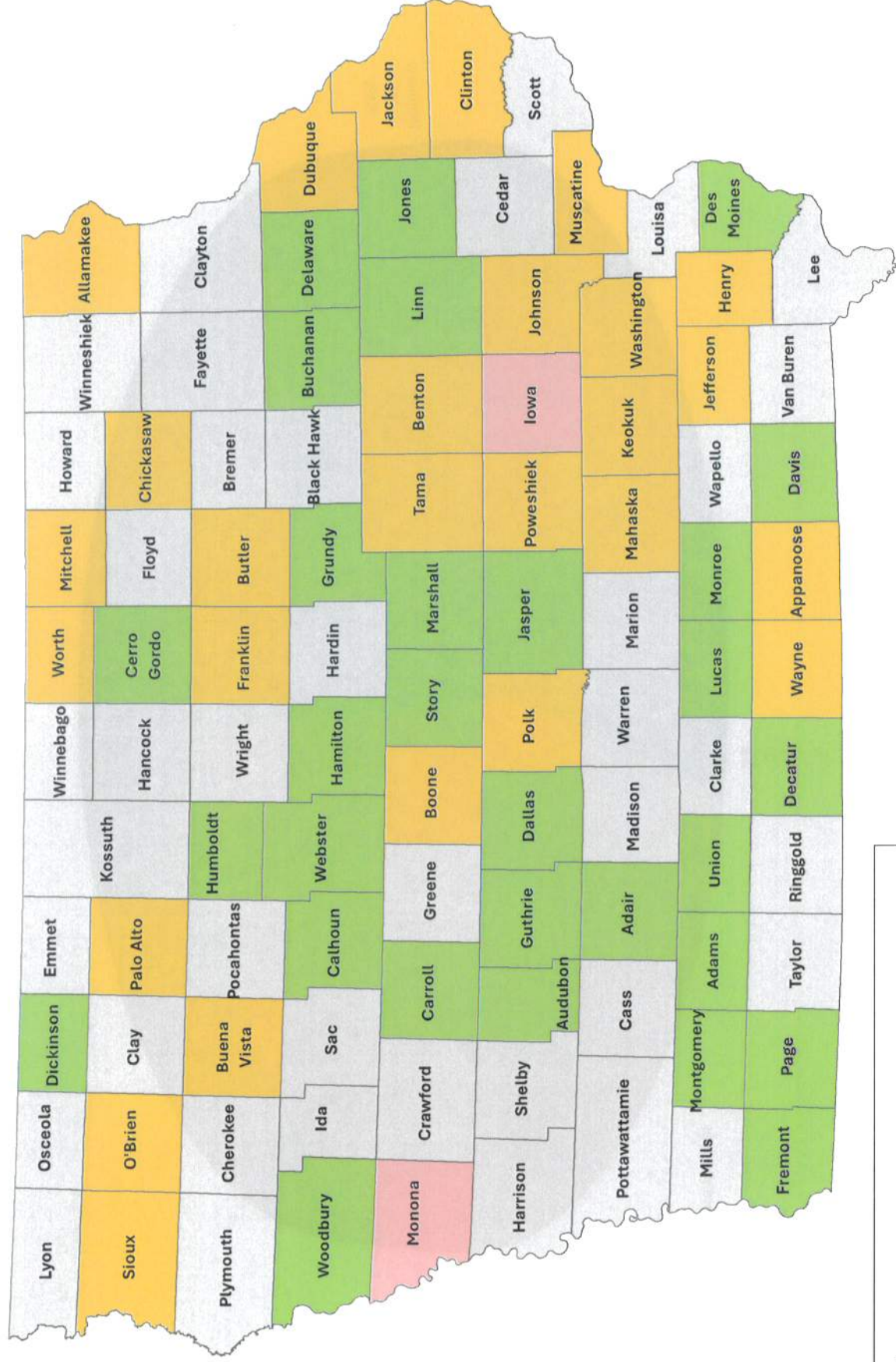
Do you use Slack to communicate with the NWS?



Outdoor Warning Siren Survey

Spring 2025

Using Slack to Communicate with NWS



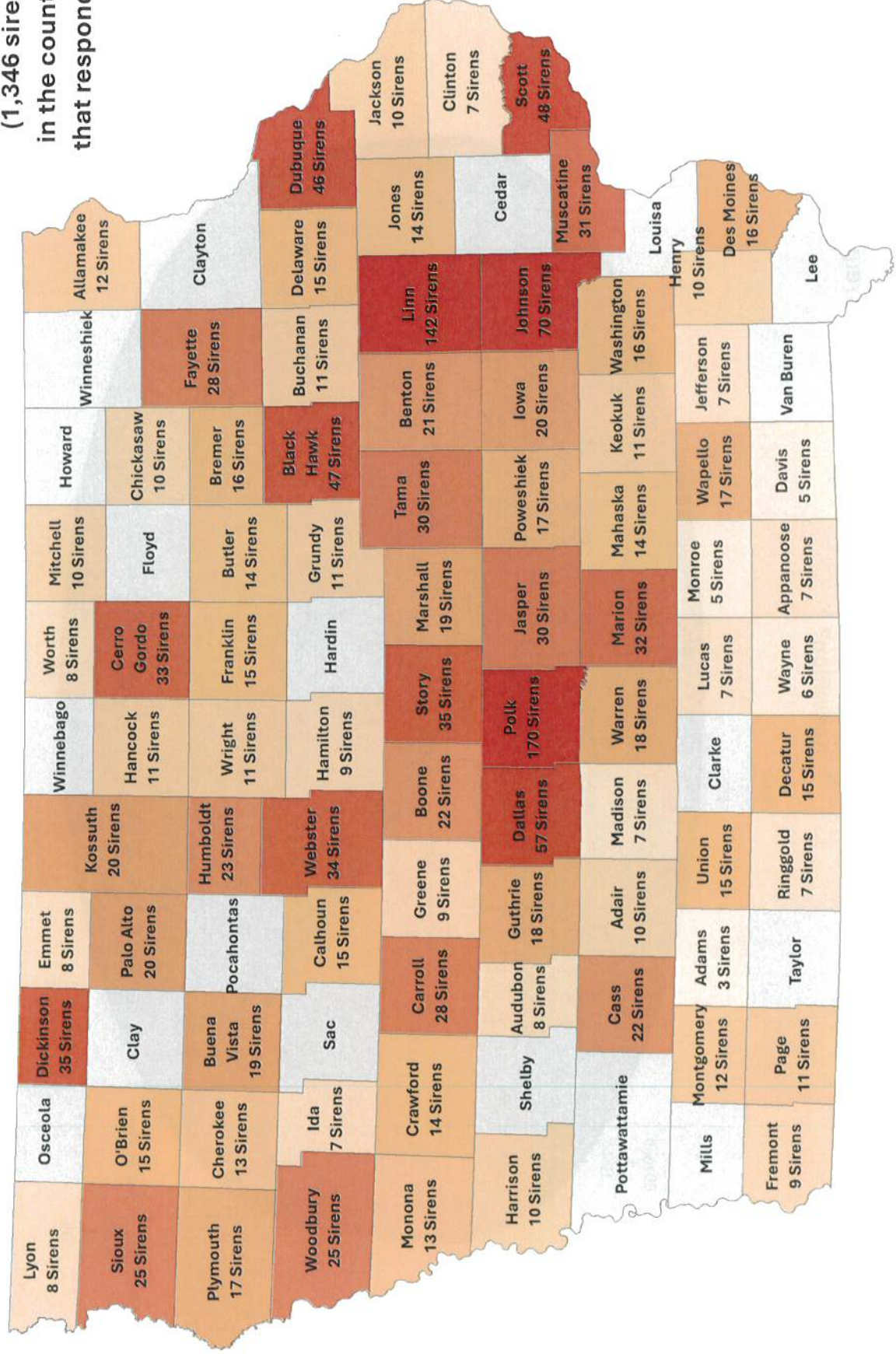
Outdoor Warning Siren Survey

Spring 2025

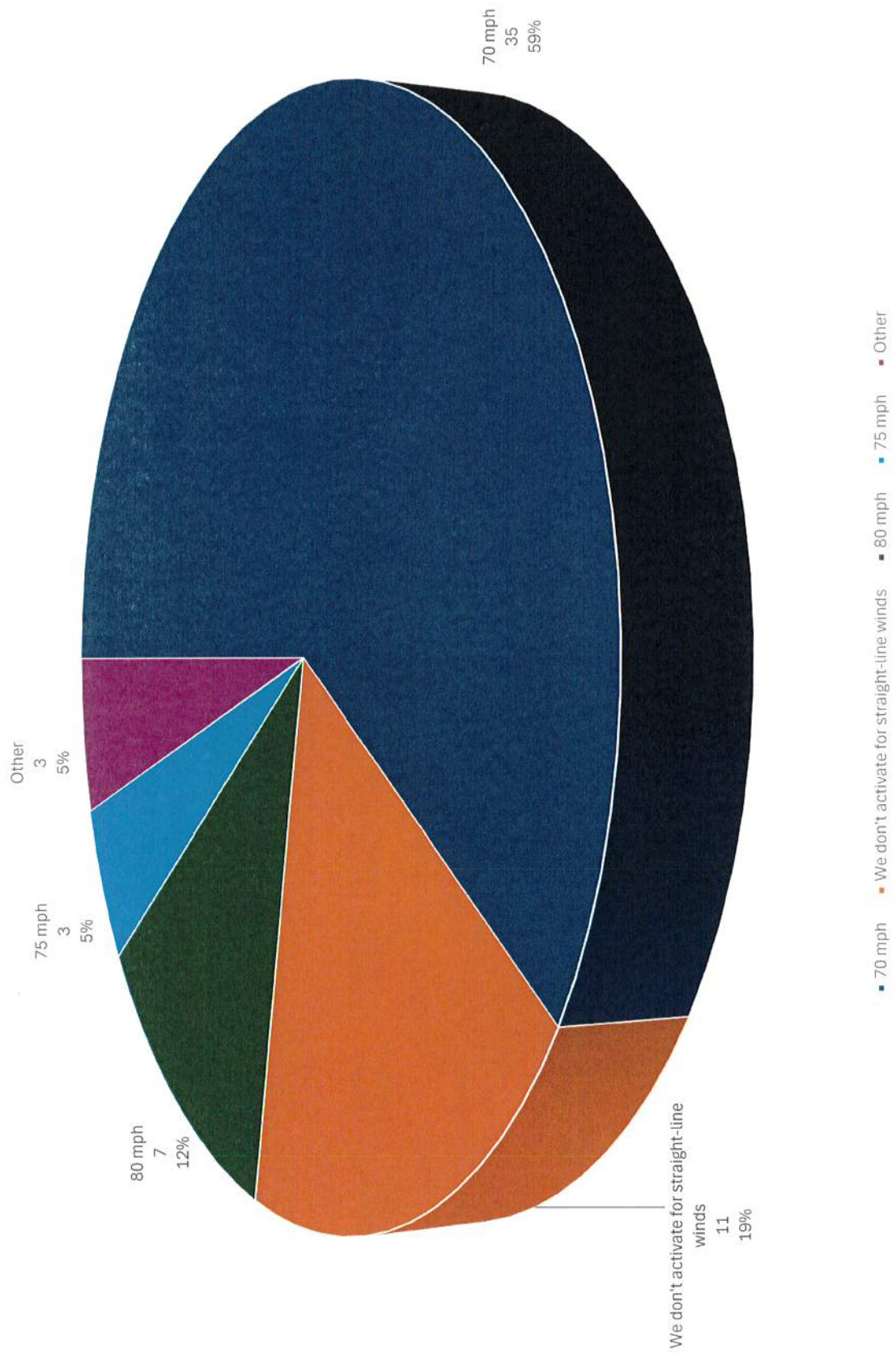


Number of Outdoor Warning Sirens

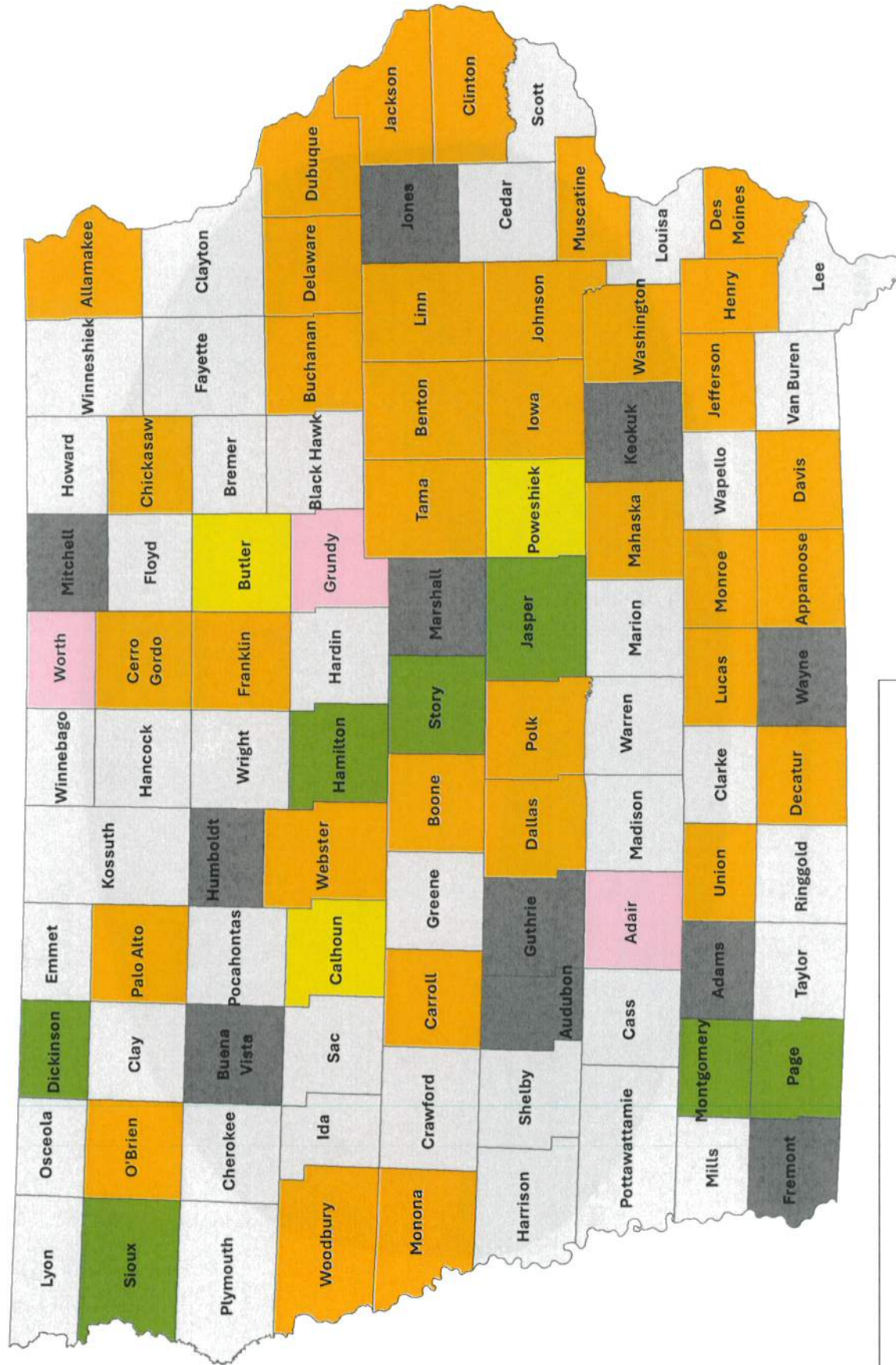
(1,346 sirens
in the counties
that responded)



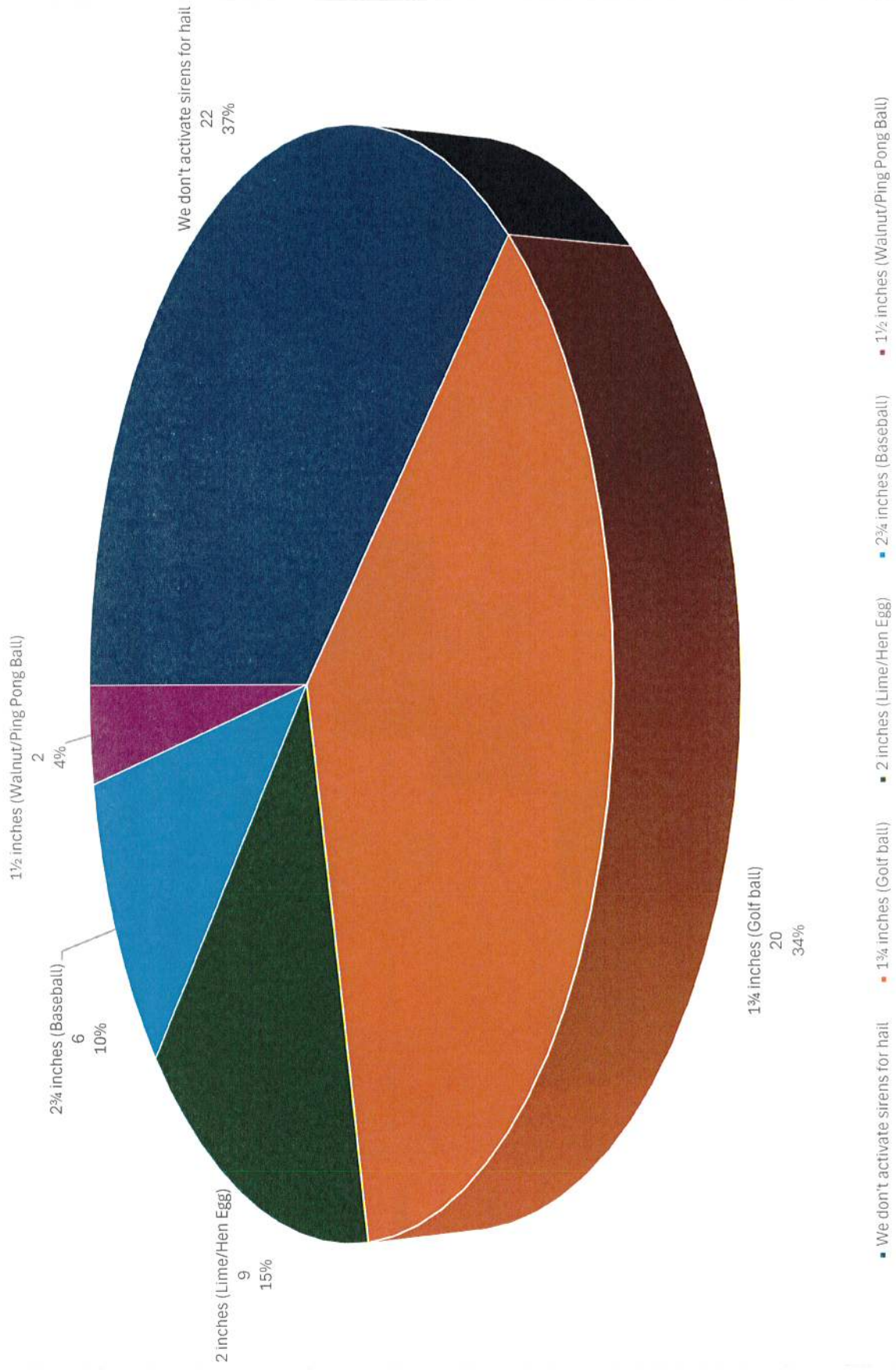
If your county activates sirens for straight-line winds, what is the speed threshold required for activation?



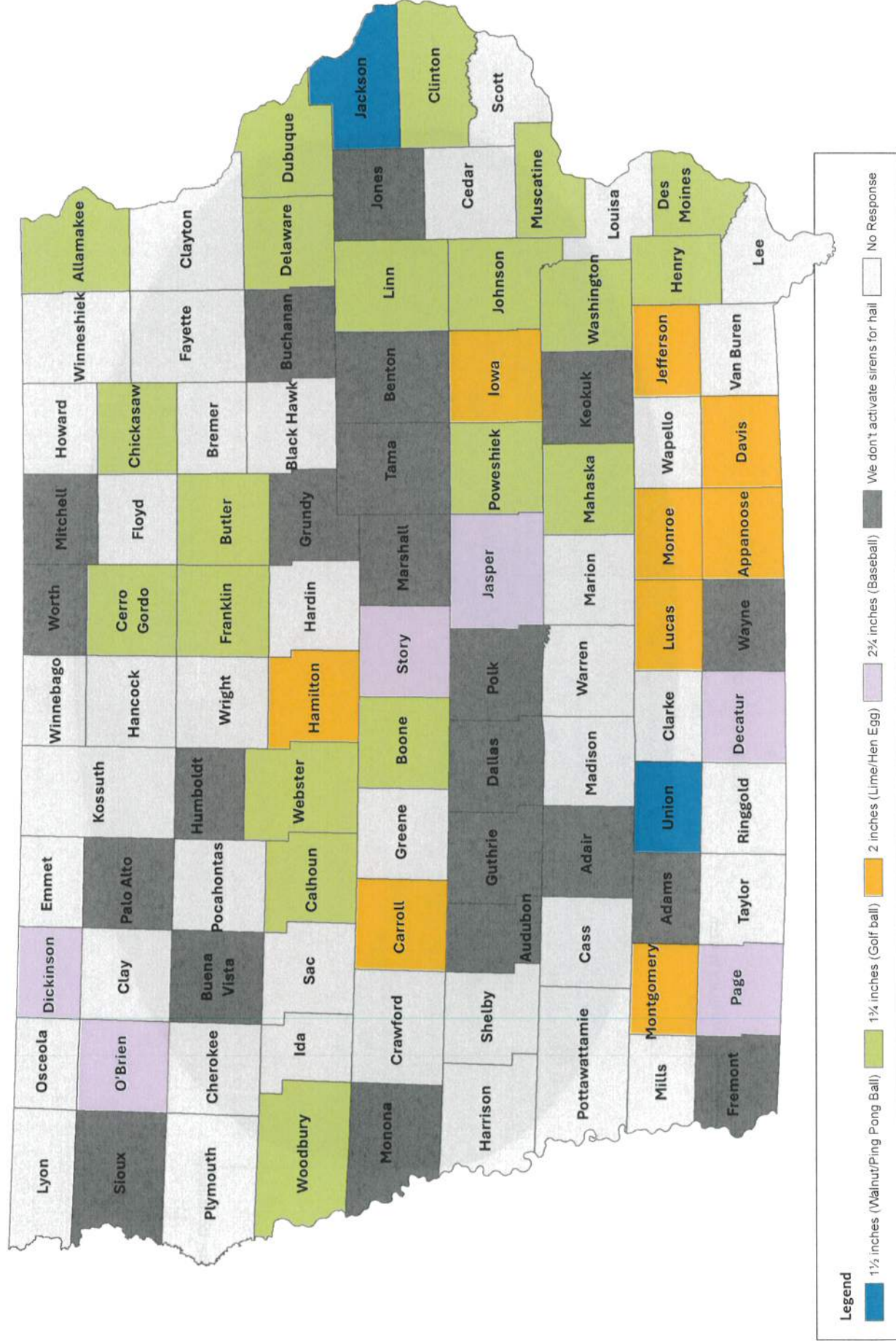
Siren Activation for Straight-Line Winds



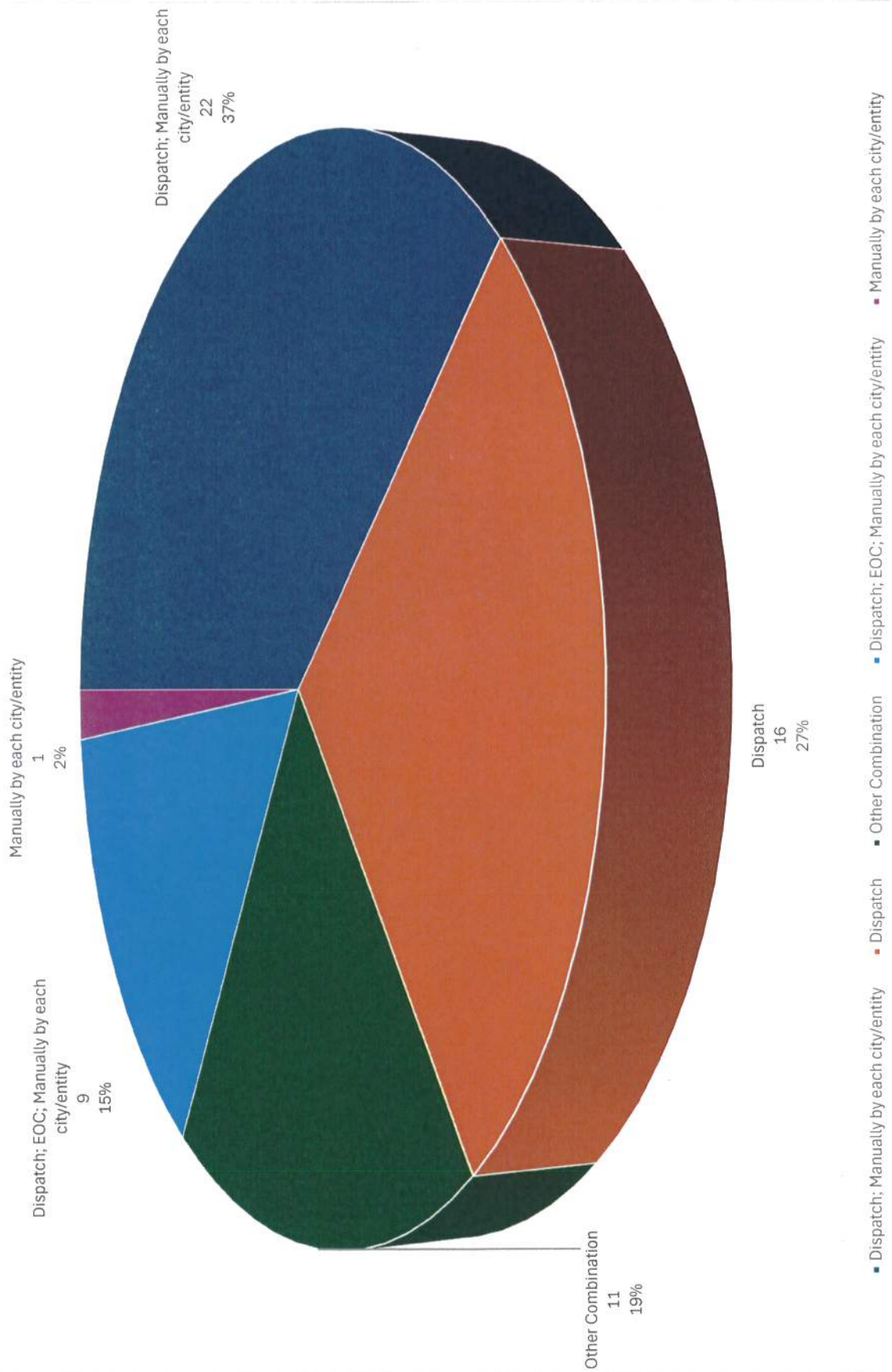
If your county activates sirens for hail, what is the size threshold required for activation?



Siren Activation for Hail



How can sirens be activated in your county?

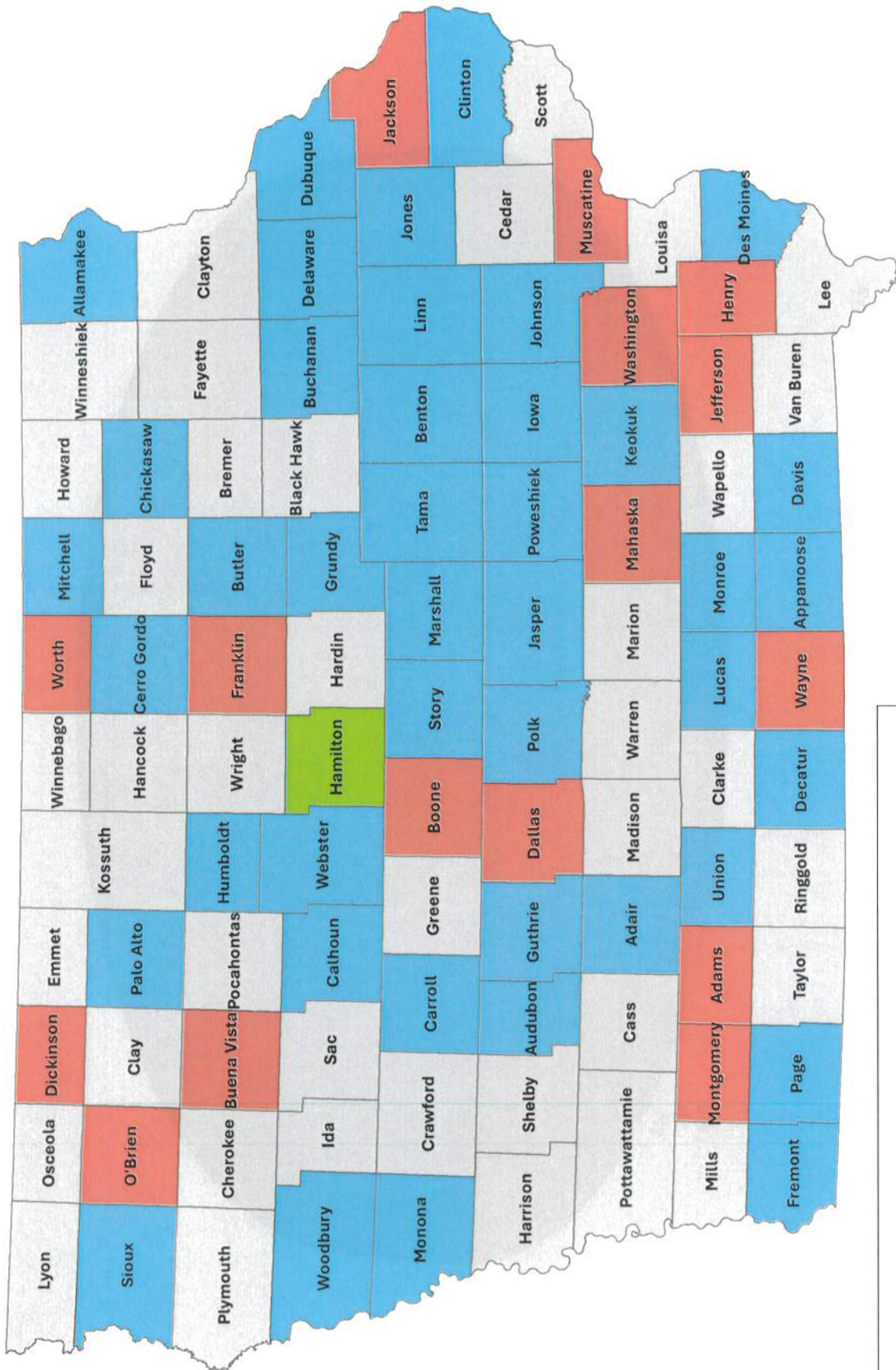


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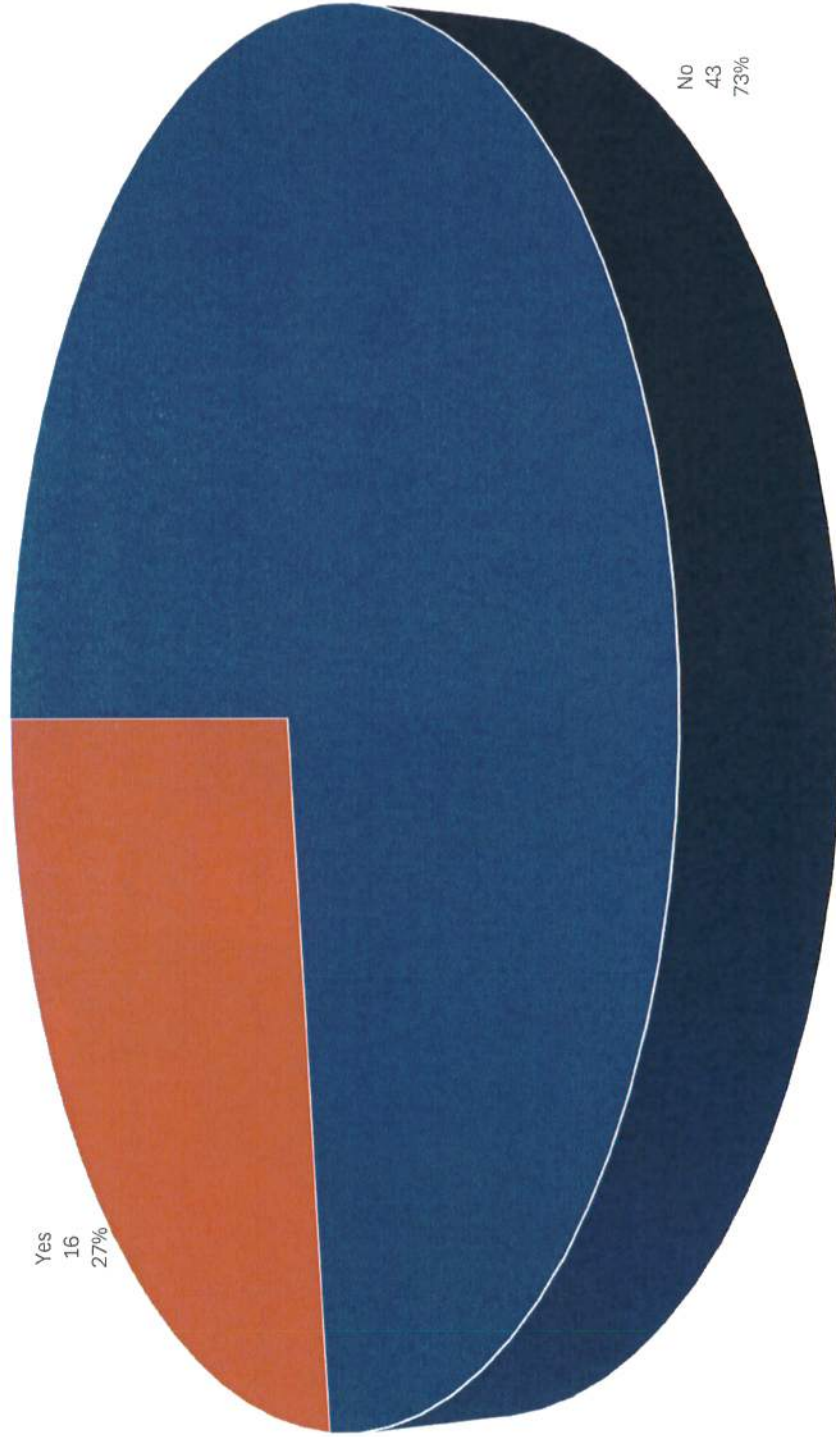
Method of Siren Activation



Legend

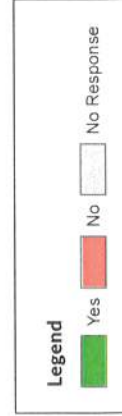
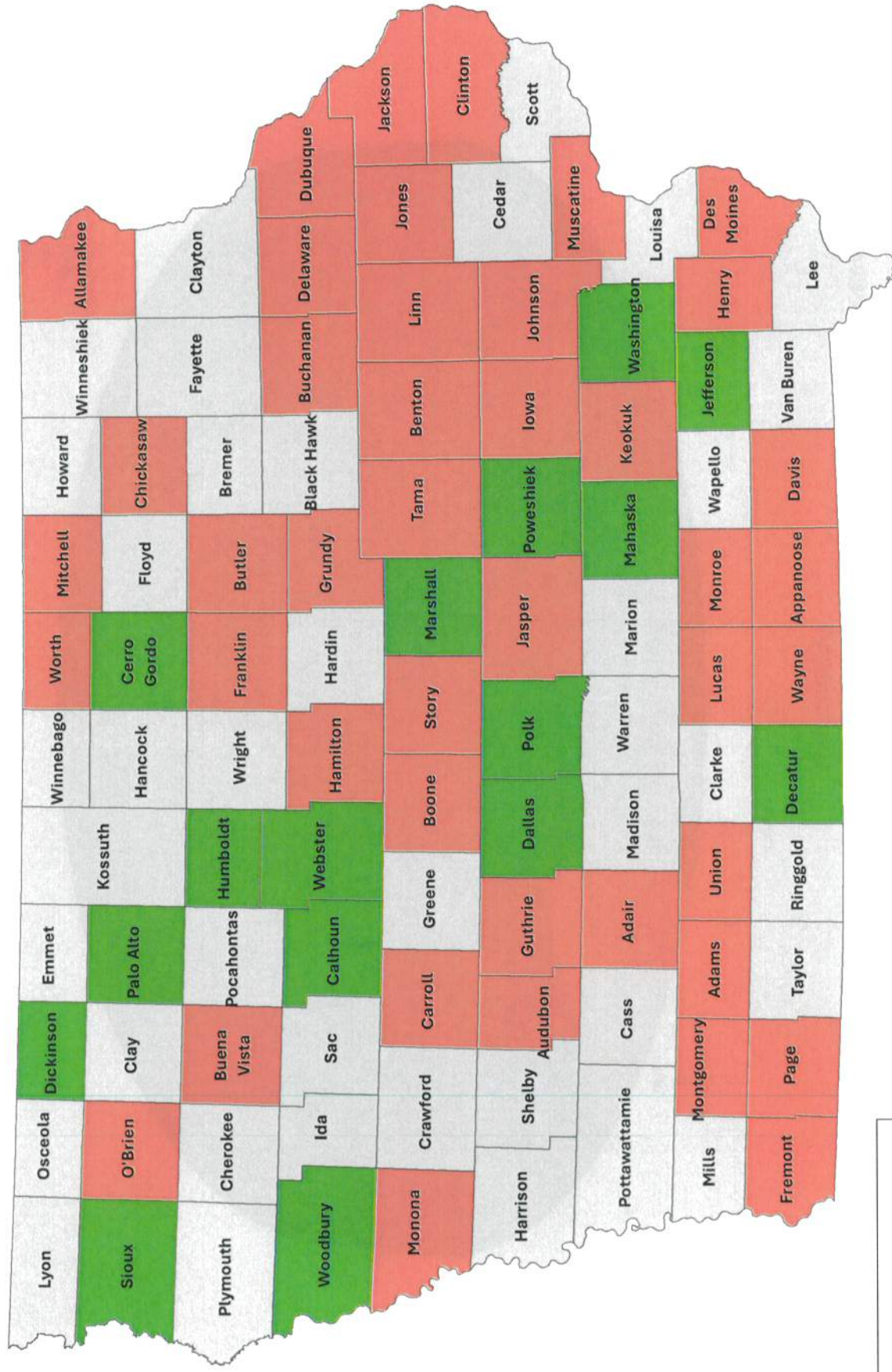
- Dispatch Only
- More than One Method
- Manually by each city/entity
- No Response

Does your county use an automatic system/software for siren activation?

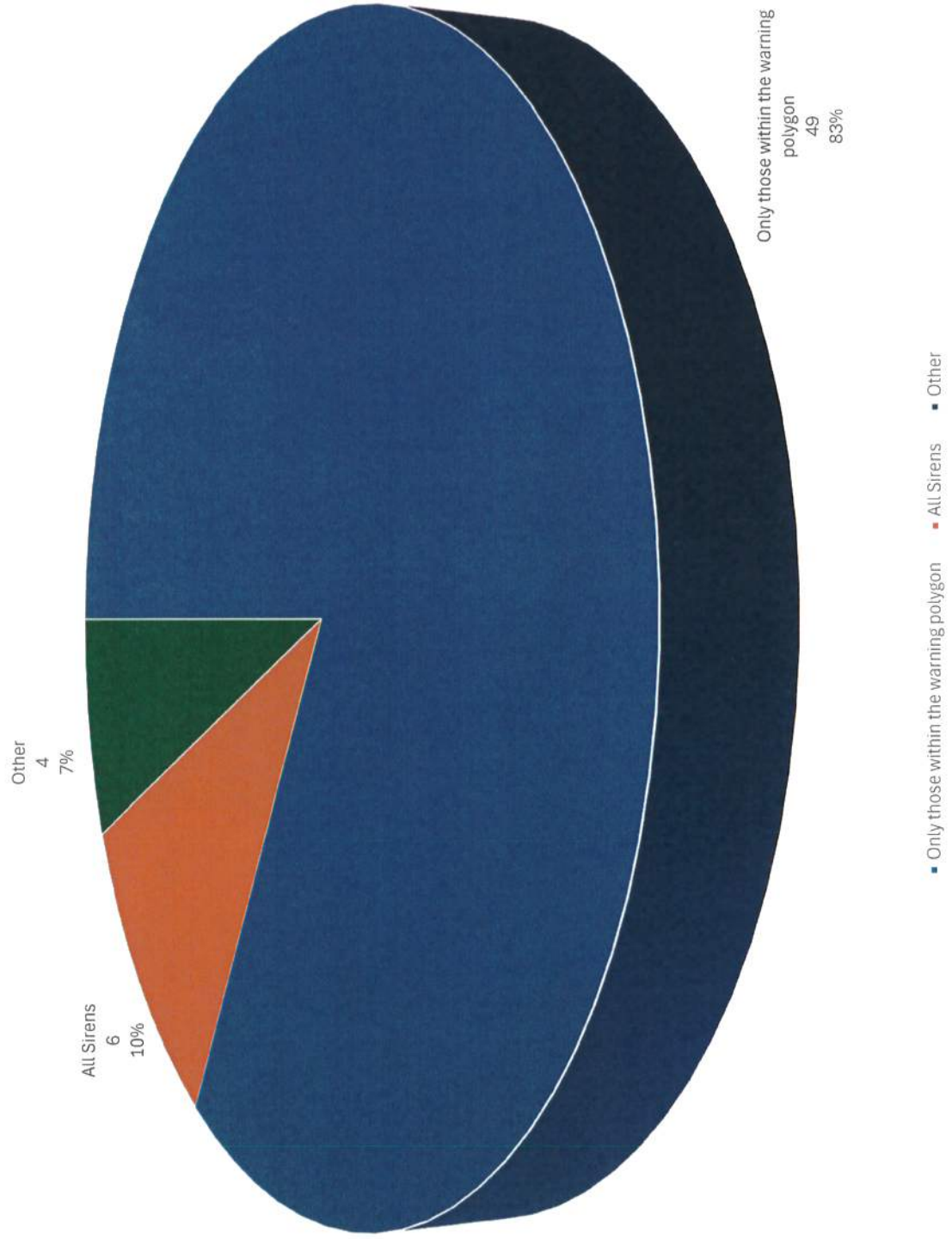


■ No ■ Yes

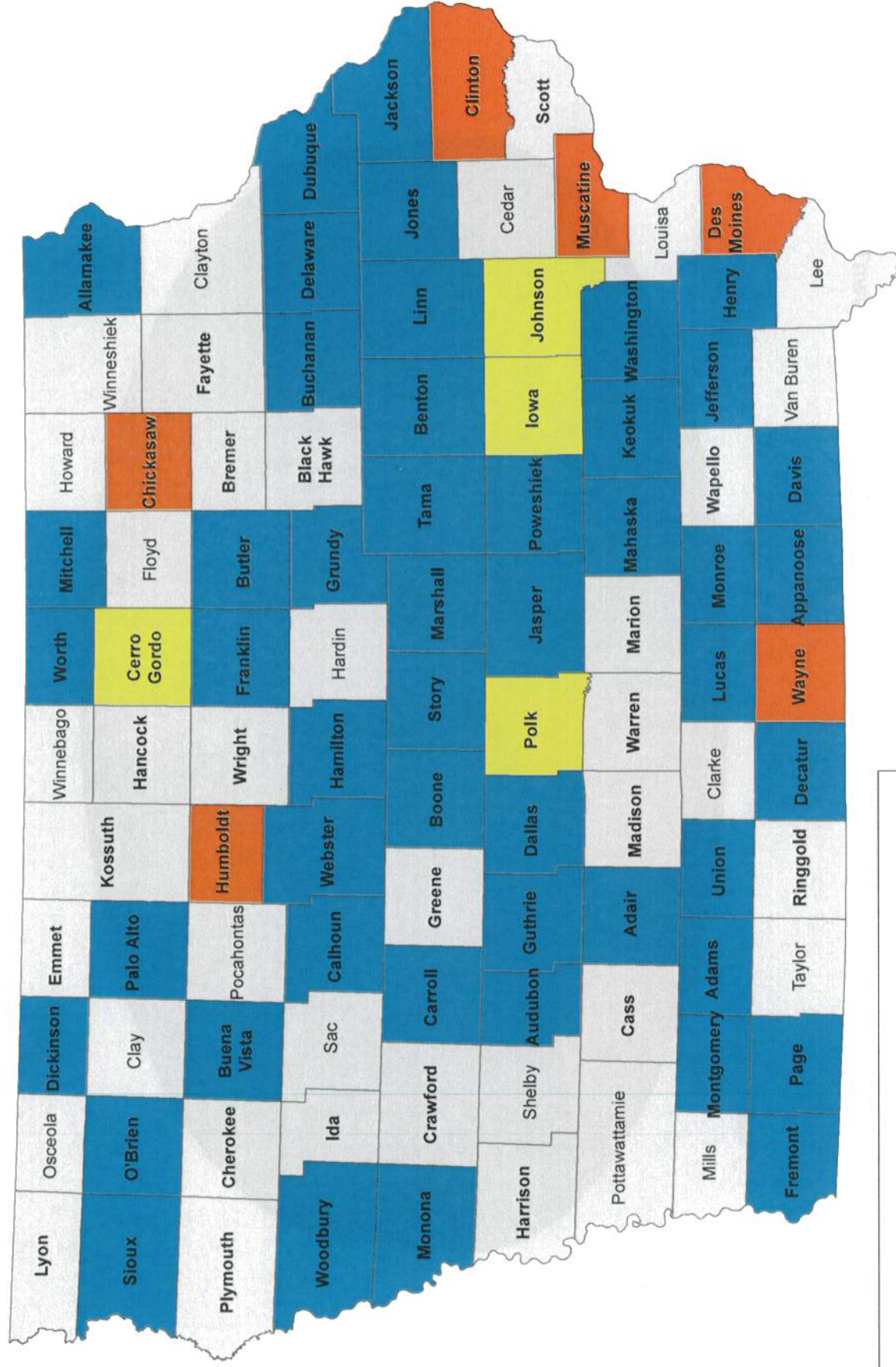
Use of Automatic System/Software



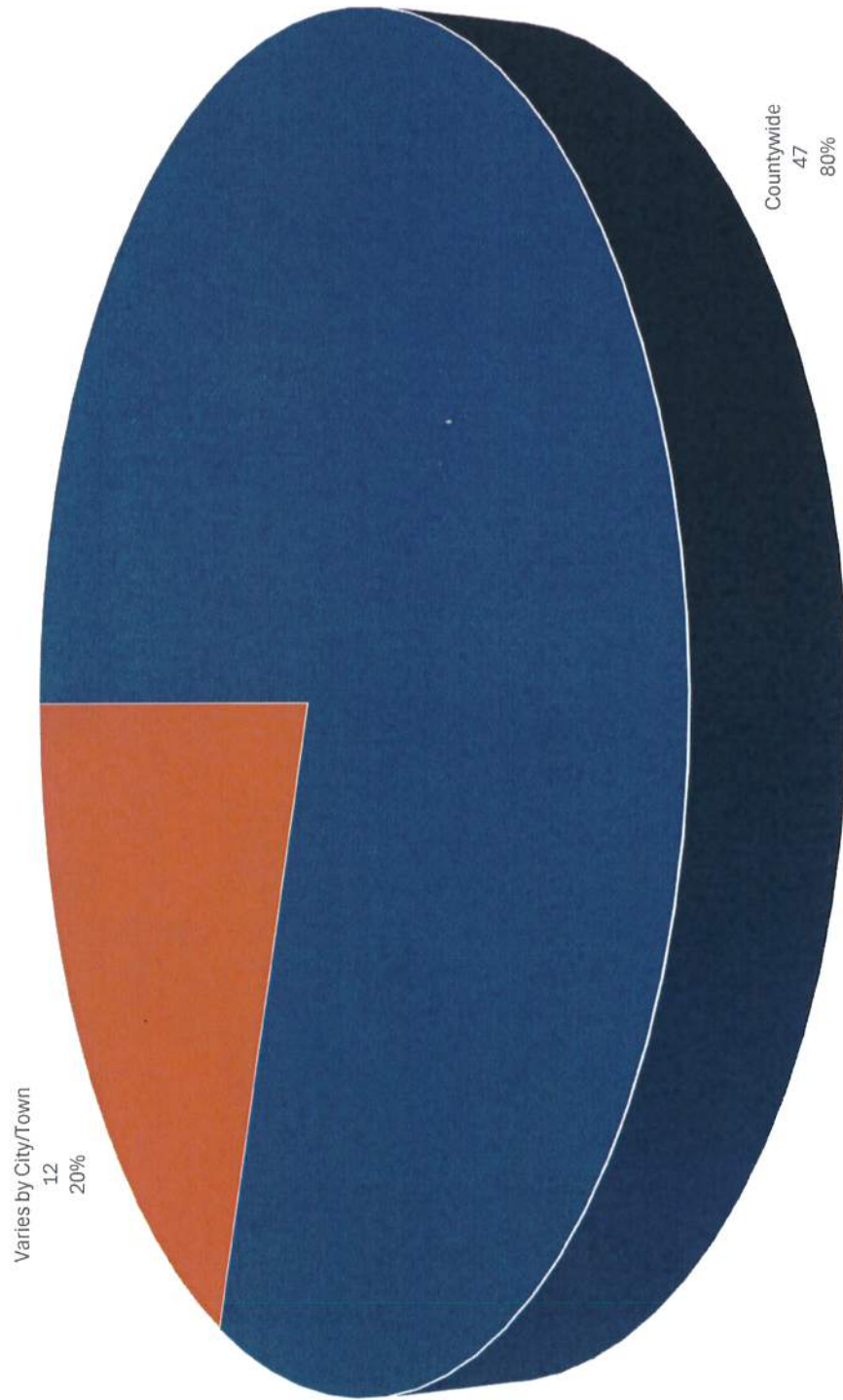
When it has been determined that sirens need to be sounded, which ones are activated in your county?



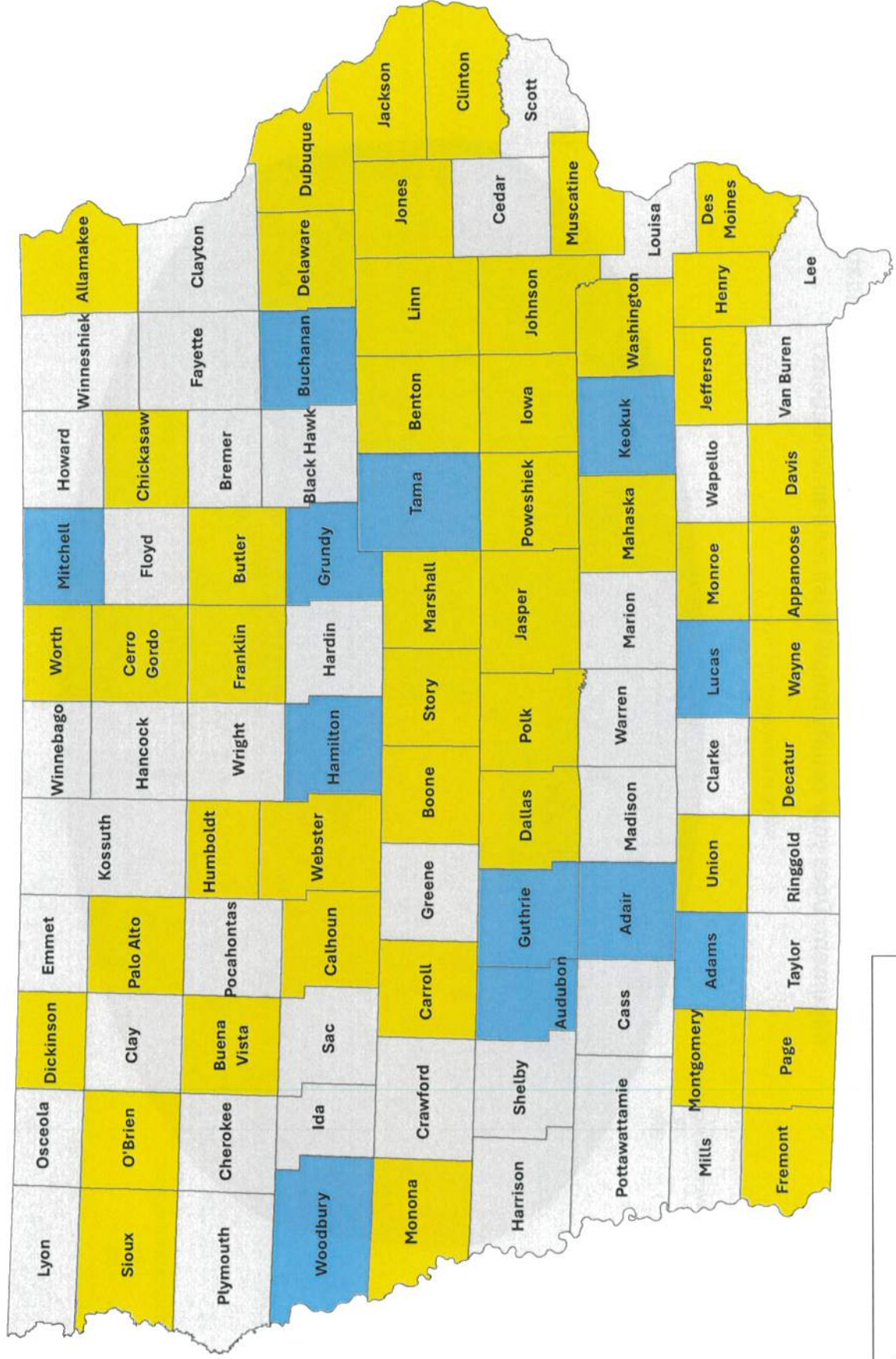
What Sirens are Activated



Do you have a county-wide siren activation policy or does it vary by city/town?



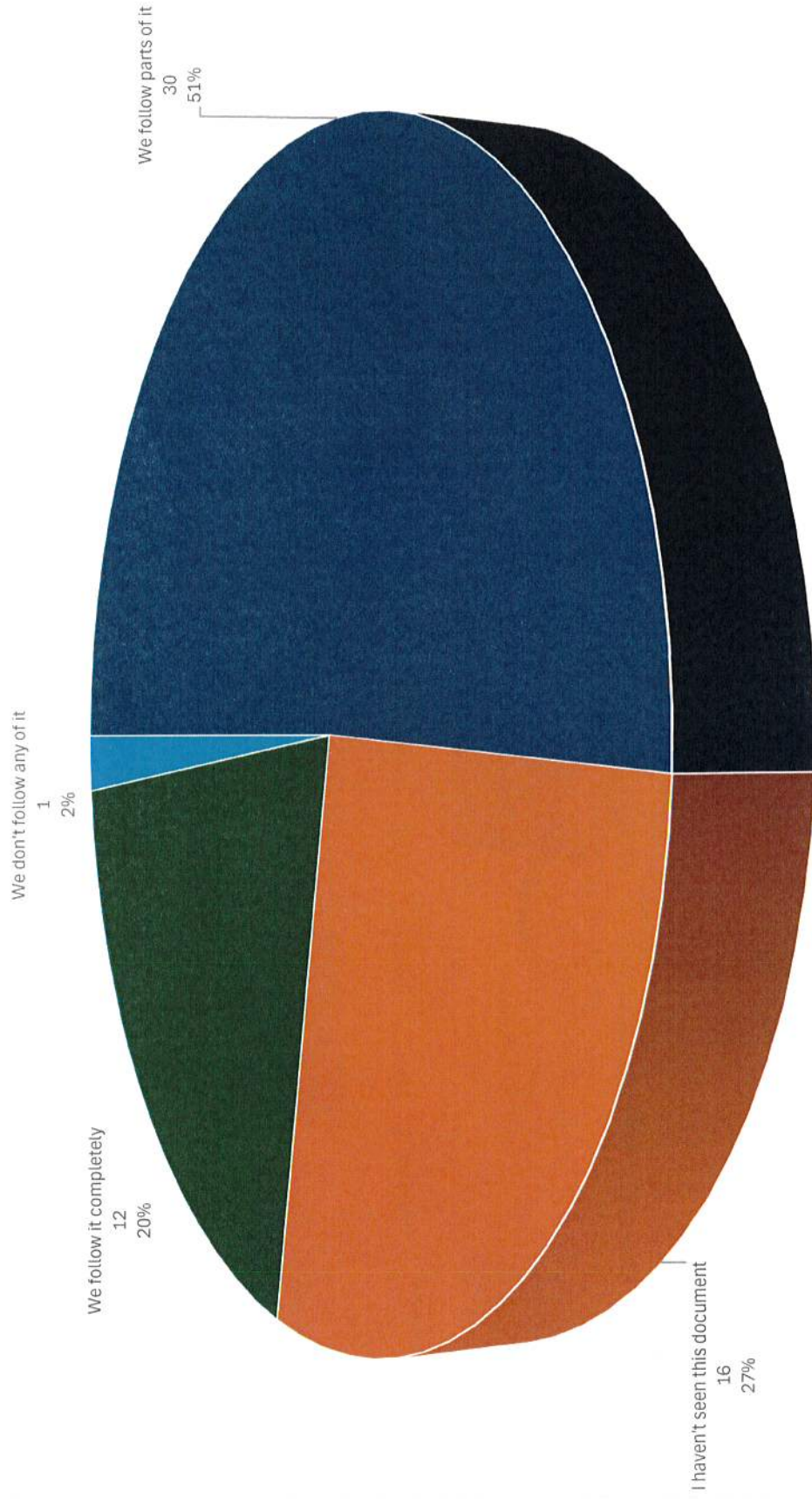
IEMA Best Practices Document for Outdoor Warning Sirens



Legend

Countywide	Varies by City/Town	No Response

In 2015, IEMA adopted the "Outdoor Warning Siren Best Practices Recommendation" document. Does your county follow these recommendations?



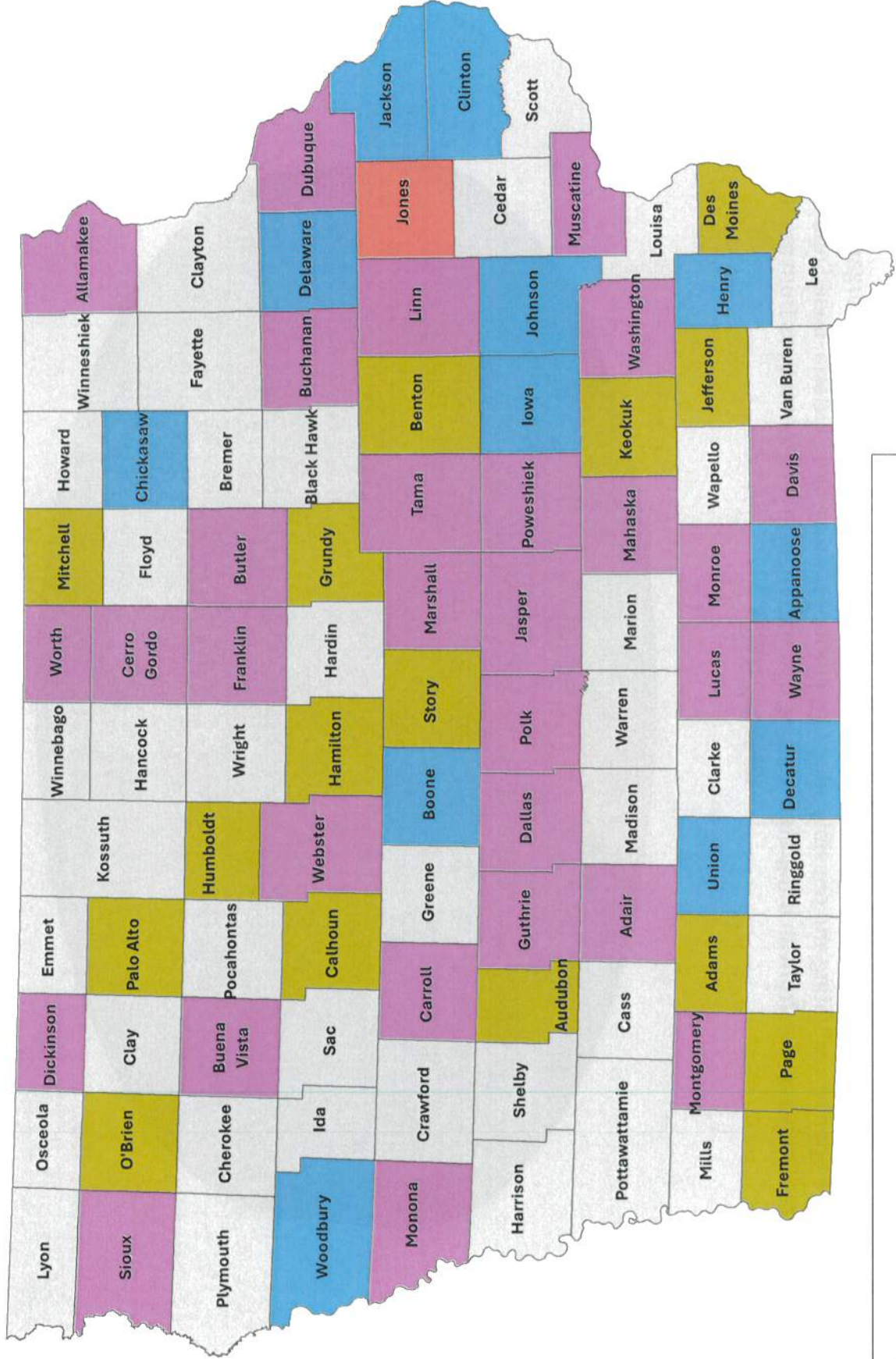
■ We follow parts of it ■ I haven't seen this document ■ We follow it completely ■ We don't follow any of it

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IEMA Best Practices Document for Outdoor Warning Sirens



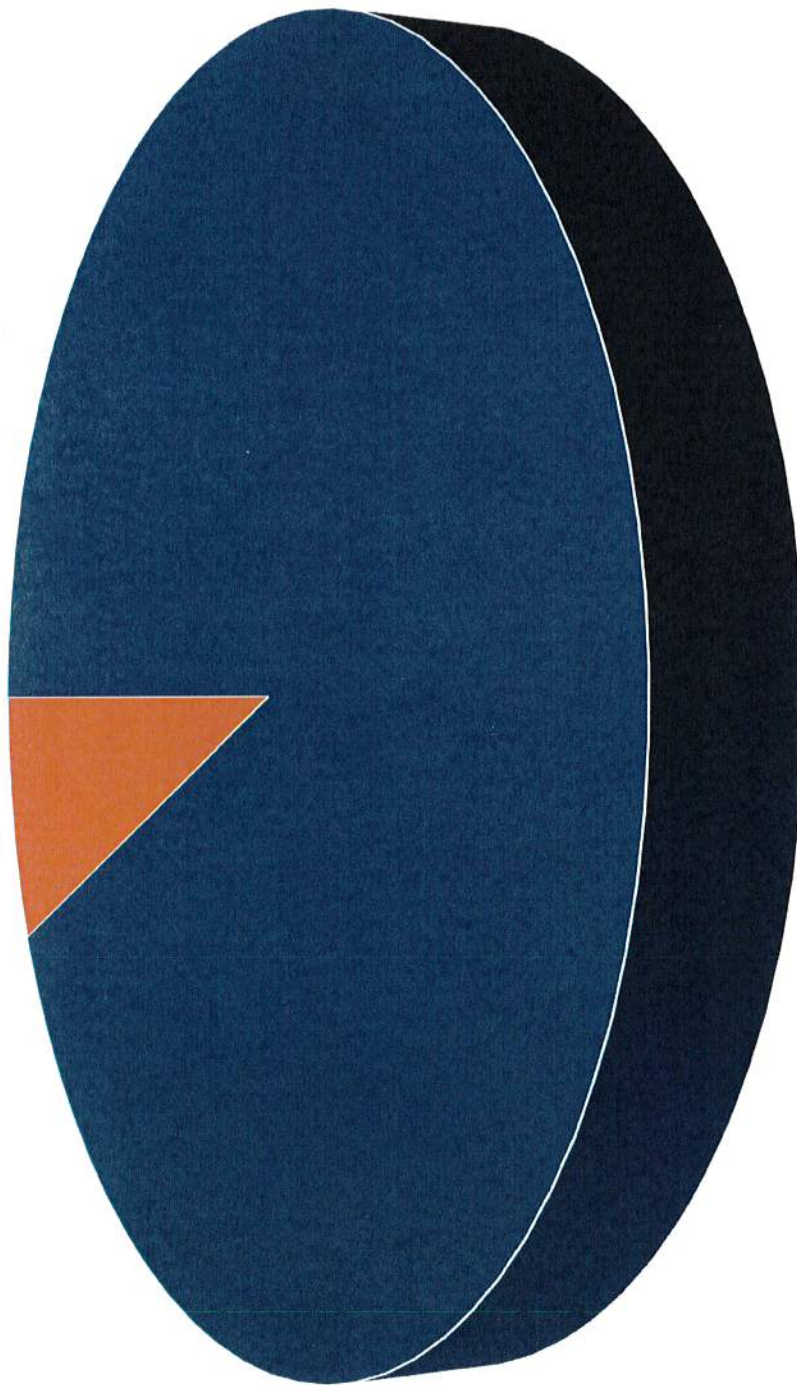
Legend

☒ We follow it completely ☒ We follow parts of it ☒ We don't follow any of it ☐ I haven't seen this document ☐ No Response

Research shows improved response with consistency in messaging. Would your organization be open to evaluating and possibly adjusting outdoor warning siren criteria, based upon a recommendation from an integrated warning committee, with representatives from media,

IEMA and NWS?

No
4
7%



Yes
55
93%

■ Yes ■ No

