



Rural Development • Rural Housing Program • Community Facilities

City Provides Adequate Notification System

The City of Memphis is providing a reliable notification to their citizens with the installation of an outdoor warning siren system. It will be used to alert the City of tornados, wildfires, or other possible life threatening events. The new sirens encompass the city and will provide an advance warning of approaching threats to the safety of the community.

The old siren system had become unreliable due to age and being connected to the phone system for activation. Alerts were relayed by the phone network system and with the relay switches no longer manufactured, making repairs was difficult and expensive. In addition, being connected to the old phone network increased its susceptibility to lightning strikes, knocking the relay out and causing the system to be inoperable.

The new sirens are not connected to any other systems. They can be activated remotely by the Emergency Management Coordinator, Police or Fire Departments, without physically going to City Hall to “flip the switch”. The new system also has battery back-up in case of a power failure, which can occur during a tornadic thunderstorm.

The City of Memphis applied for assistance through the Community Facility Program. Memphis is located in a designated StrikeForce County, a Persistent Poverty County and was selected as a CED Community. Rural Development processed the application and approved a grant in the amount of \$31,400 to assist in funding the total cost of the \$42,740 system. The grant was approved on May 5, 2015 and the system was installed and operational on July 29, 2015.

The City of Memphis used the grant assistance provided to leverage with their funds of \$11,340 to obtain the new siren system. The city was able to purchase the early warning system with Rural Development’s assistance, otherwise the cost would have been prohibited by budgetary restrictions.

The City of Memphis has a population of 2,290 based on the 2010 census and the median household income is at 52% of the non-metropolitan median household income for the state of Texas. This is a small city with limited resources to provide for its citizens. Memphis has also obtained a RUS loan/grant to improve a city water storage tank this year.



The new system located at a favorite outdoor activity attraction in Memphis.

Obligation Amount: \$31,400 grant

Date of Obligation: May 5, 2015

Congressional District: Representative Thornberry, District 13; Senators John Cornyn and Ted Cruz

Partners: City of Memphis and Greenbelt Electric Cooperative

Demographics: 2290 citizens of Memphis, Hall County

Impact: Providing life threatening protection by advance warning of pending threatening conditions facing the city.