

*Bob Dole*



**NEWS**

**U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS**

**FROM:**

**SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

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## **KANSAS TORNADO SIRENS**

**DOLE'S \$1.15 MILLION TORNADO SIREN PLAN WINS FINAL APPROVAL;**  
**BUSH'S OK WILL MAKE 154 SIRENS AVAILABLE FOR 91 TOWNS, 34 COUNTIES**

WASHINGTON -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole's (R-Kansas) \$1.15 million request to help Kansas communities purchase new tornado warning sirens won final Congressional approval Thursday. Both the Senate and House overwhelmingly approved a bill containing Dole's measure which will help at least 91 Kansas communities in 34 counties purchase 154 new tornado warning sirens, including two for tornado-ravaged Andover.

Dole's Kansas siren amendment is included in the FY92 VA, HUD and Independent Agencies appropriations bill. The measure now goes to President Bush for his signature.

"Thanks to today's action, many Kansas communities are a big step closer to getting the severe weather protection they need," Dole said. "No doubt about it, when it comes to warning a town of approaching tornados, nothing beats the piercing wail of a siren. That's why I hope the eligible Kansas communities will take advantage of this generous matching grant program."

Dole's measure includes a provision to make it easier for smaller communities to purchase the sirens. Communities with populations less than 5,000 persons will be eligible to obtain the sirens under a 75/25 percent federal/local cost sharing arrangement. Communities with populations more than 5,000 persons will qualify under a 50/50 cost sharing agreement. The sirens are estimated to cost approximately \$7,500 apiece (including purchase price, transportation and installation).

State officials determine which Kansas communities are eligible to purchase new equipment. Depending on local participation, additional towns may become eligible to participate in the federal/local funding match to purchase sirens.

In addition, Dole's request included money to help purchase two new sirens for Andover, which currently has two sirens on loan from Coffey County. Dole had secured the temporary Andover sirens after the town's siren failed to operate during the devastating tornado of April 26th.

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