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SEPTEMBER 26, 1991

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## 154 TORNADO SIRENS FOR KANSAS

### DOLE'S \$1.15 MILLION TORNADO SIREN PLAN CLEARS MAJOR HURDLE; 91 TOWNS IN 34 COUNTIES ELIGIBLE FOR BRAND NEW WARNING EQUIPMENT

WASHINGTON -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole's (R-Kansas) \$1.15 million request to help Kansas communities purchase new tornado warning sirens has cleared a major hurdle. A Senate/House conference committee today approved 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 won approval today as the committee completed action on the FY92 VA, HUD and Independent Agencies appropriations bill. The measure now goes to the full Senate and House for final approval, which is expected, and then to the President for his signature.

"Today's action by the conference committee is good news for Kansas," Dole said. "This assistance will be essential to helping many of our communities, some with no early warning system whatsoever, get the protection they need. When severe weather is bearing down on Kansas, every second counts, and these sirens could mean the difference between life and death."

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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