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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
ATTENTION: CHIEF REPORTERS

Siren test prompts technical check

The test of Invercargill City's Civil Defence sirens last Saturday (October 17 at 10.50 am) has prompted a technical check of all sirens after some failed to operate properly.

Council's Civil Defence Manager Bill Obers said residents may hear a siren near them operate for a short burst of about five seconds, sometime over the next week or so. This was not an emergency but would be part of the technical check.

He said the benefit of Saturday's city-wide siren test was that it allowed Council to identify and repair faults in a non-emergency situation.

"It also highlighted the need to run this sort of test more often, so that people become familiar with the sound of the sirens, but not so often that they become blasé." He said Council now planned to test the sirens once every six months.

He said the siren system had a dual purpose, in that not only did it provide a warning to the public, but also operated as a dedicated radio link between that facility and Civil Defence Emergency Operations Centre.

"I would like to thank those members of the public who took the time to contact Council and pass on their comments about the test.

"I apologise for any nuisance the test may have caused people, but it is a necessary thing to make sure that people are aware of the siren sound and what they should do if they hear it (which is turn on the radio and listen to the nearest local radio station)."

Sirens are currently installed at: Donovan Primary School, James Hargest College Junior and Senior campuses, St John's Girls' School, Ascot Community School, Aurora College, New River Primary School, Otatara Community Hall, Makarewa School and Myross Bush School.

Further sirens were to be installed at Southland Girls' High School, Clifton Salvation Army Hall, at Bluff and possibly Kennington, Mr Obers said.

ENDS.

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