Xenia, Ohio (May 10, 2016) - City of Xenia Fire Chief Ken Riggsby and The Xenia Fire Division issued important information, tips and advice today for residents and visitors to Xenia during the current severe weather season.

The current City tornado sirens were upgraded in 2003 after the City was declared a “Project Impact” community by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The upgraded tornado sirens were placed in accordance with FEMA guidelines to give optimal coverage of the Xenia community. Sirens are checked on the first Monday of every month at 12 noon. The sirens have emergency battery back-up power and a computer tracking element that allows for emergency personnel to verify that the sirens function properly.

According to Chief Riggsby, “The main reason for our monthly siren check is to ensure that the sirens are ready and functioning properly in case of a tornado warning and a true emergency. On a regular basis, our Fire Division at the City of Xenia physically monitors the activation of the sirens in an effort to keep our citizens safe from harm and because we value the lives of residents and visitors in our City.”

If threatening weather is in the area, the Fire Division recommends that residents get to an area of safety and monitor the situation via radio or television. A weather radio or possibly even a cell phone application should be considered to alert residents of weather warnings, especially during sleep. The tornado sirens should not be solely relied upon to notify all residents of a pending tornado. Sirens are activated by policy after a tornado warning is issued and are only intended to alert those that may be outside and unaware of the threatening weather situation. The sirens are not intended to be heard inside a home or vehicle, and therefore other monitoring devices are recommended.
The map below highlights siren locations for all of Greene County. Five sirens are located within the City of Xenia and six are in Xenia Township. For more information on severe weather readiness or fire safety, citizens may contact the Xenia Fire Division at (937) 376-7280 or on Facebook at City of Xenia Fire Division. Visit ExploreXenia.com for more information about the City of Xenia.

Xenia Sites
1. Xenia High School on Kinsey Rd.
2. Old Spring Hill Site on Ormsby Dr.
3. The former Board of Education Office on East Market St.
4. Franklin Park on Dayton Ave.
5. Glady Run water treatment plant on Bellbrook Ave.

Xenia Township Sites
1. 373 Washington Rd.
2. 1578 Hoop Rd.
3. 1055 N Bickett Rd.
4. Brush Row Rd.
5. Greene County Career Center

###