



# SENSE OF SECURITY

## Siren Control System Provides Complete Notification A Testimonial Case Study for the: **Federal Commander Digital System**

**Profile: Amarillo, Texas  
Potter County, Texas  
Randall County, Texas  
Square Miles: 1800  
Population: 200,000+**

Emergency Managers are responsible for preparing their community to respond to any emergency. Knowledge of what protective actions to take coupled with warning and notification is essential for proper response by residents and responders alike. When outdoor sirens are used for warning, maintaining them at a high level of operations readiness is a top priority. The Federal Commander Digital System allows Emergency Management Officials and system operators to...

### **VERIFY STATUS**

In emergency circumstances, Emergency Managers cannot afford to have a malfunctioning system. The Federal Commander Digital System, manufactured by Federal



Signal Corporation, offers complete, secure activation and status monitoring of any siren system. Consisting of the SFCDDWARE software, SS2000D encoder and the Digital Siren Controllers, the Federal Commander makes protecting communities simpler.

**Overview:** Federal Warning Systems (FWS) is a division of Federal Signal Corporation. Since World War I, FWS has been the leading manufacturer of warning sirens. Our indoor and outdoor warning products are designed to alert and notify the public of natural and man-made disasters. Located in University Park, Illinois, FWS provides turnkey systems worldwide.



**Issue:** The city of Amarillo is located in the Texas panhandle between Potter and Randall Counties. This area, a part of "tornado alley," experiences numerous severe storm events annually. For more than 35 years, outdoor warning sirens located throughout this area (currently 65 are installed) have been used for warning. In addition to storm warnings, the outdoor system will be used for evacuation and hazardous alerts. Due to false activation, aging controllers, and limited testing abilities, the jurisdiction's Emergency Management Coordinator was in search of a two-way FSK system that would provide daily status feedback and ease of operation.

**Solution:** After researching all available options, specifications were written and the system was bid. Upon evaluation the city of Amarillo selected the Federal Commander Digital System as its primary means

of monitoring and activating the outdoor warning system. With the Federal Commander, the outdoor system continues to be the central part of a warning system, which includes Tone-Alert Radios, EAS and other devices used by the Emergency Management Coordinator.

**Result:** Utilized twice in the first month, the Federal Commander has proven it can activate the system on demand, and be adjusted to meeting changing needs rapidly. Two-way status monitoring has allowed EOC staff to maintain the system in a high state of readiness.

### **The Federal Commander offers the city of Amarillo and other cities a variety of benefits:**

- Single point and click activation and status monitoring
- Real-time status map and color-coded icons of each siren
- Complete RTU configuration and reprogramming from control site
- Direct communication between sirens

### **Specific benefits experienced by the city of Amarillo**

- Provides security, reliability and automatic reporting of siren status change
- Improves credibility and insures readiness when sirens are activated
- Visually shows the status of the sirens

