

01 PREPAREDNESS IS KEY

PLAN FOR FLOODS OR OTHER DISASTERS

During National Preparedness Month in September, remember to plan for your household and business. It's wise to assemble an emergency kit and have it ready if you need to evacuate. For more information, visit: www.ready.gov/make-a-plan and www.ready.gov/build-a-kit to learn about building an emergency plan and an emergency kit.

Be alert when storms approach. Access local news stations, follow weather updates, and listen for emergency sirens.

The flood siren is an alternating high-low tone and is activated manually when flooding threatens lives or structures. The tornado siren is a steady, one-note tone and is activated when the National Weather Service issues a tornado warning for Tulsa or when destructive winds are expected.

Upon hearing the flood or tornado siren, residents should immediately move to higher ground in case of flood or go to their best available shelter from a tornado. Then continue to monitor weather radios and the broadcast media for further information.

When seeking shelter during severe weather, avoid flood prone areas. During any flood or high-water event, motorists should avoid driving through flood waters, and remember to "Turn Around, Don't Drown."

Know your risk of flooding. Check maps available at maps.cityoftulsa.org/floodplains to find out if your home or business is in a floodplain. Also visit www.floodsmart.gov to find out what you can do about your flood risk. Buy a flood insurance policy. Property owners and renters in the city limits of Tulsa are eligible for a 45% discount on flood insurance.

City stormwater engineers are available to visit your property and give recommendations on how to improve drainage. They also will explain why you need flood insurance. For more information, contact the Customer Care Center at 311 or (918) 596-2100 (outside city limits).



CITY LIFE

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IN THIS EDITION OF CITY LIFE

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PREPAREDNESS MONTH

Be alert when storms approach, have an emergency plan.

02

MEDICATION DISPOSAL

Leftover medications may be dangerous if abused; choose proper disposal.

03

POLLUTANT DISPOSAL

Bring chemicals to the Tulsa Household Pollutant Collection Facility.

04

LISTEN FOR SIRENS

Learn about the sounds and meanings of Tulsa's emergency sirens.

+ **PLUS:** SAFE WAYS TO DISPOSE OF YOUR POOL WATER

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TULSA



02 SAFE MEDICINE DISPOSAL

NEVER FLUSH MEDICINE DOWN TOILETS

Proper disposal of unused medications benefits your health and the environment. Medications should not be left around the house, available for possible misuse by family members.

It is best to properly dispose of medications and not flush them down toilets. Wastewater treatment plants are not designed to remove chemicals found in many medications, and these chemicals could discharge into streams if medications aren't disposed of properly. Long-term exposure to these chemicals can harm aquatic wildlife and our water.

Tulsa participates in two National Drug Take-Back Events each year in the spring and fall, with the next event taking place in Fall 2026.

Citizens can also take unwanted prescription drugs to any of the three Tulsa Police Division headquarters and to the Tulsa County Sheriff's office year-round, Monday through Friday, except for holidays. Locations and hours include:

- **Tulsa Police Gilcrease Division, 3436 N. Delaware Ave., 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.**
- **Tulsa Police Mingo Valley Division, 10122 E. 11th St., 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.**
- **Tulsa Police Riverside Division, 7515 S. Riverside Dr., 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.**
- **Tulsa County Sheriff, 303 W. First St., 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

03 POLLUTANT DISPOSAL

BRING CHEMICALS TO CITY FACILITY

Ridding your home of chemicals and potentially hazardous items creates a safer home environment. Many of the chemicals we have in our households could be considered hazardous if used or disposed of in an improper way. The City of Tulsa Household Pollutant Collection Facility at 4502 S. Galveston Ave. is open for disposal of these items Wednesdays and Saturdays, 8 – 11:30 a.m. and noon – 4:30 p.m., excluding City holidays.

Tulsa residents may dispose of pollutants free at the facility. Non-Tulsa residents served by the Metropolitan Environmental Trust can get vouchers to dispose of up to 45 pounds before fees apply; call (918) 584-0584. A Swap Shop at the facility is open for customers to take up to five items.

The Household Pollutant Collection Facility is open for residential customers but not businesses disposing of commercial wastes. For more information about household pollutant disposal in Tulsa, see www.cityoftulsa.org/HPCF

Accepted Items:

- Oil-based paints and thinners
- Latex paint
- Automotive fluids, flammable liquids
- Fluorescent and CFL lightbulbs
- Cooking oil/grease
- Aerosols, household cleaners
- Household and car batteries
- Pool and lawn chemicals
- Small electronics, mercury thermostats

Non-Accepted Items:

- Large electronics (TVs, monitors, computers)
- Industrial or commercial waste
- Medical or biomedical waste (syringes, needles)
- Asbestos
- Food or organic waste
- Radioactive material
- Ammunition, explosives
- Tires
- Unknown materials or substances

SUMMER'S LAST DAYS

TIME TO DRAIN THE SWIMMING POOL

Summer weather in Oklahoma often stretches past Labor Day for a few weeks in September. When summer does come to an end, many Tulsa residents will empty their pools.

When draining a swimming pool, there are best management practices to follow for taking care of Tulsa's environment. Pool water should not be discharged to the storm drain, as the water may contain harmful chemicals that are toxic to our environment and wildlife.

Remember: storm drains flow to Tulsa's creeks and rivers, where fish and other creatures live. Pool water can be toxic if ingested, and if it is poured into the stormwater drainage system, it will get into neighboring creeks and can kill off aquatic animals.

Safe ways to dispose of pool water include draining it on your lawn and letting it soak into the grass or discharging it down the sanitary sewer system. After you have finished your last chemical treatment for the pool this season, wait at least 72 hours before disposing of pool water either on your lawn or in the sanitary sewer system. By waiting to dispose of pool chemicals, you lessen the risk of adding more chemicals onto your lawn or in the sewer system.

According to City ordinance, anything that is not rainwater is illegal to discharge into the storm drainage system. If you see someone illegally dumping into a storm drain, please report it by sending an email to Tulsa311@cityoftulsa.org or calling 311.



04 EMERGENCY SIRENS

LEARN WHAT TULSA'S SIRENS MEAN

Learn What Tulsa's Sirens Mean

Being prepared when disaster strikes helps save lives and property, prevent injury and decrease recovery costs. Knowing about warning sirens and how they sound can help you take the right protective action.

Tulsa has more than 80 siren locations in and near the city, with each siren reaching an approximately one-mile radius. The sirens' tones are intended to warn citizens about tornadoes, military attacks and chemical releases into the atmosphere. Tulsa's warning sirens are tested live each Wednesday at noon, weather permitting, or silently when weather does not permit.

Three Types of Sounds:

Three-minute "steady, one-note" tone is activated when the National Weather Service issues a tornado warning including the city of Tulsa. The tone also is activated manually for chemical releases into the atmosphere. This tone is steady, but it may sound like it is changing due to changes in wind velocity and direction. Upon hearing this tone, seek shelter immediately and monitor media for weather information. When seeking shelter during severe weather, avoid flood prone areas.

Three-minute "high-low" tone is activated manually when it has been verified that flood waters are escaping creek or river channels and are threatening structures. Upon hearing the flood sirens, you should immediately move to higher ground and monitor weather radios and broadcast media for further information. During any flood or high-water event, motorists should avoid driving through flood waters, and remember to "Turn Around Don't Drown."

Three-minute "waving" tone is like the "wailing" sound made by police and fire vehicles and is activated manually, being used only to warn of nuclear attacks.

To hear what Tulsa's different types of warning sirens sound like, you can visit: www.cityoftulsa.org/sirens