

Ocean City Fire Department  
**FIRE CHIEF'S GENERAL ORDER**

FCGO: 20-014

Thursday, September 3, 2020

Page | 1

**TO** ALL OCFD Personnel  
**FROM** Fire Chief Richard R. Bowers, Jr.  
**SUBJECT** House Sirens



The OCFD Chief's met on August 18, 2020, to discuss a house siren activation protocol. The Town of Ocean City and the Fire Chief's Office has received complaints regarding the activation of the house siren during night time hours when residents and visitors are in town.

The siren activation has become a community issue and we must address the complaints and activation protocol for the sirens. As a result of the discussion with the OCFD Chief Officers the following activation protocol will be in place beginning September 4, 2020 at 2200 hours:

**The house sirens will not activate from 2200 hours until 0600 hours daily.**

The OCFD is requesting the establishment of a protocol for the house sirens to not activate between the hours of 2200 and 0600 hours daily. The protocol will require communicator function to not initiate the house siren code *FIRE\_ALARM* on building fire incidents during these hours. The protocol will establish a process by the Fire side Communications Operator to not activate the house siren. Instead the Communications Operator shall use the *FIRE\_ALARM 2200\_0600*.

The purpose is to limit the House Siren activation(s) to the traditional non-sleep hours of our residents and visitors. The Fire Department will initiate a public awareness campaign to educate our residents and visitors on the purpose of the House Siren for Fire and Civil Defense activities.

The OCFD will remain a good community member for all of our residents and visitors.