

STATE HOSPITAL SIREN

A Guide for the Local Community

The State Hospital is a Special Health Board as part of the NHS in Scotland providing assessment, treatment, and care in conditions of special security for individuals with mental disorder who, because of their dangerous, violent, or criminal propensities, cannot be cared for in any other setting. It is a national service for Scotland and Northern Ireland, providing both care and treatment of the highest standards whilst ensuring public safety. The Hospital aims to rehabilitate patients, ensuring safe transfer to appropriate lower levels of security.

Patients are admitted to the Hospital under the provisions of the Criminal Procedures (Scotland) Act 1995, the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003, and other related legislation.

This information sheet tells you about the Hospital and its sirens, providing some information in the event that a siren is activated.

About the siren

The siren is used to alert and warn both the local community and staff in the event of a patient being unaccounted for. The siren is activated for three reasons only: (1) to warn of a patient being unaccounted for; (2) to signal the 'all clear' which means there is no risk to the public; and (3) for testing purposes.

The different sounds of the siren

The different sounds of the siren are described so that you can recognise them when you hear them.

- **A patient being unaccounted for** - In the event of this, the siren will sound continuously for eight minutes to alert and warn people in the surrounding area. By the time you hear the siren, we will already have put our contingency plans into place in partnership with Police Scotland.
- **The "all clear"** - The siren will sound three 30-second blasts. This means that the siren will sound for 30 seconds, then go off for 30 seconds - and this will happen three times.
- **Testing** - On the third Thursday of every month at 1.00pm, the 'all clear' signal will sound. This is three 30-second blasts. If we need to test the siren at any other time, we will announce this on local radio and on our website - www.tsh.scot.nhs.uk. Tests always use the 'all clear' signal.

The location of the sirens

There are nine sirens in total; one of these is based within the Hospital grounds, and the other eight are located throughout the local community at Braehead, Carnwath, Carnwath West End, Carstairs Junction, Carstairs Village, Forth, Lanark, and Ravenstruther.

What you should do when the siren is activated?

In the event of the siren being activated, we advise that the following steps be taken to ensure your safety. This will help reassure us that you are safe, and will reduce the overall risk and alarm caused:

- If you are in your house, please remain there. Lock all your doors and close your windows. You may also wish to account for family members.
- If possible, contact any elderly neighbours by telephone. Hearing your friendly voice will help reassure them and will give you the opportunity to explain what they should and should not do.

Please do not

- Answer the door to anyone you do not know or recognise.
- Attempt to approach anyone.
- Stop and give a lift to anyone you do not recognise in the event that you are driving when you hear the siren.

Working in partnership

Throughout the incident, we will be working very closely with Police Scotland who will be directly responsible for the effective command, control, and co-ordination of the emergency response. You may notice a large Police presence in the area and much activity. For security and safety reasons, some local roads may be closed.

Keeping you updated

The public are urged to listen to their local radio station for updates. National television may also provide coverage. Regular information will also be provided via a recorded message. The public can call the Incident Helpline on 01555 840762 for the latest information. They should not call the State Hospital's main switchboard during an incident as these lines need to be kept free.

Patient sighting

A full description of the patient, including clothing being worn, will be made available to the Police. If you have any information with regards to a possible sighting of this patient, you should call the Police immediately using the 999 emergency number. Under no circumstances should any member of the public approach this individual.

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