



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Uncontrolled Activation of Individual Warning Units**

The City of Wichita Falls Traffic Engineering Division would like to thank the public for bringing this issue to our attention. After visiting with the manufacturer's representative, it appears that the keypad independently and sporadically malfunctioned in several local outdoor warning units. According to the representative, condensation can form inside the keypad, thus "bridging" the connection to activate the unit. The keypad is located inside the unit, but it is not sealed to protect it from air within the outdoor warning unit cabinet. The representative informed City staff that cold, moist weather like we've been having has caused similar problems both locally, regionally, and nationally.

The keypad is only used to activate the unit onsite, and it has been the City's policy to keep the keypad connected in the event an individual unit must be used by emergency management officials. As a result of this issue, the keypad will be disconnected at all 56 individual locations around the City. If emergency management officials need to use an individual unit onsite, the keypad will be reconnected at the time of use. It should be noted that disconnecting the keypad will not impact the City's ability to activate a unit or the entire system using traditional methods.

If the problem continues, the City of Wichita Falls is requesting that the public contact the Traffic Engineering Division at (940) 761-7640. Please report your location, and City staff will follow up on the problem.