Important Announcement for the General Public
Important Announcement for the General Public (VMA)

The important announcement signal is a warning system that is used when the public needs to be immediately alerted to situations that constitute a risk of injury to life, health, property or the environment.

Which situations may be involved? The signal is used, for example, during disturbances in vital community functions or when the public is exposed to risk because of dangerous fires, toxic gas release or the risk of explosion. It may also involve the spread of infection or serious crime involving a risk to the general public.

What does the signal sound like? The important announcement signal is sounded for at least two minutes and consists of a seven-second long blast, with a 14 second pause in between. This is repeated for at least two minutes. A 30 second continuous signal is sounded once the danger has passed.
What should you do when the signal sounds? When you hear the signal you should go inside, or stay inside, close all doors, windows and ventilation, and turn on the radio to station P4 or the television for teletext in order to receive information. You will then receive information about what has happened and what the imminent threat is. In addition, there will be instructions for what the public should do to protect themselves and if there is something that can be done to facilitate rescue efforts.

The signal is tested quarterly. The important announcement signal is tested at 15:00 on the first normal working Monday of March, June, September and December. At these times you do not need to do anything, apart from remember what the signal sounds like, as preparation for a situation that could occur at a later date.

Where can I hear the signal? The sounding of the signal is limited to the precise area where the general public is deemed to be at risk. Equipment for sounding the outdoor signal is located in Skellefteå centre, Boliden, Skellefteåhamn, Orvik and Ursviken. At locations in the municipality of Skellefteå which are not covered by the warning system, the general public is alerted by means of vehicles equipped with loudspeaker systems, which drive around to convey the information.
www.skelleftea.se
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