

Outdoor Warning Sirens

The following is an Information Bulletin intended to educate and reinforce the policy for activation of the Emergency Outdoor Warning Sirens in the Village of Lake Zurich.

The Village of Lake Zurich has six (6) strategically placed Emergency Outdoor Warning Sirens located throughout the Village. They are located at: Miller and Route 12, Paulus Park on Whitney Road, Cuba and Lexington Roads, Buffalo Creek Park Building on Old Mill Grove Road, Ensell and Telser Roads in the Industrial Park, and at Fire Station #1 at 321 S. Buesching Road. These six Emergency Outdoor Warning Sirens cover the entire Village in a geographic grid pattern when they are all activated simultaneously. The sirens purpose and function are exactly as stated "Emergency Outdoor Warning Sirens" and not designed or intended to be heard indoors. They are used to alert outdoor residents and patrons to seek shelter immediately.

Many residents ask why the sirens can't be heard indoors: Sirens are not intended or designed to be heard indoors with the theory that persons indoors are already better protected than those outdoors; and, due to building construction and insulation values used to sound proof and insulate homes it would be nearly impossible and impractical to have such a loud device sounding which could be heard in every home or business.

The Outdoor Warning Sirens are used primarily for alerting residents of "Tornado Warnings" activated with a 3-minute solid siren while Lake Zurich is under a Tornado Warning. It is common practice to activate the 3-minute siren activation more than once if the duration of the warning is extended. Residents may hear the 3-minute siren activation and then hear it again 5-10 minutes later. This repeat activation is intended to provide warning to those that may have just gone outside or to those that heard the first activation to let them know the warning continues. When the Outdoor Warning Sirens are activated with this 3-minute solid siren, seek shelter immediately. Lake Zurich does not issue an All-Clear alert of any kind so residents will need to monitor the local weather channel. These sirens are also tested on the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 AM and should not be mistaken for an actual warning.

Once the Outdoor Warning Sirens are activated, residents and business professionals should seek shelter immediately in their home or business and monitor local weather channels or radio stations for details. The "Tornado Warning" indicates a tornado has been sighted or indicated on Doppler radar in or approaching Lake Zurich. Monitor local weather channels or radio stations for details of the conditions and necessary action for those in the storm's path. Please do not call the emergency 9-1-1 lines unless you have a true emergency since it may delay our ability to answer other emergency calls that may occur.

Tornado Warnings should not be mistaken for Tornado Watches when the National Weather Service issues an Alert. Tornado Watches indicate that conditions are suitable for the formation of a tornado yet none has been detected or observed. During a Tornado Watch Alert, the Village of Lake Zurich has trained Severe Weather Spotters from the Fire, Police, Public Works, Park and Recreation and Engineering Departments watching the sky and reporting any severe weather changes.

Tornado Warnings indicate that a tornado has actually formed and has been sighted or detected on radar and residents in the path should seek shelter immediately. The trained Weather Spotters will attempt to confirm any sighting and follow the movement until the danger is out of the area.