

# TORNADOES

Tornadoes are nature's most violent storms. Spawned from powerful thunderstorms, tornadoes can cause extensive damage in a short time. The strong rotating winds can easily destroy large buildings, turn small, normally harmless items into deadly missiles, and hurt people, animals, and even heavy machinery hundreds of yards. Flying debris carried along by the funnel causes most injuries and deaths from tornadoes.

Since 1950 all counties in Illinois have experienced tornadoes. Tornadoes can occur any time of the year in the state, but the prime months are March through June. Illinois has averaged 31 tornadoes per year since 1950, but there have been as many as 107 in one year (1974). Fifty percent of all tornadoes occur between three and seven p.m., but they can strike any time of day.

Only about 15% of all tornadoes strike during the night.

## OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS

The Village of Lake Zurich has the capability of notifying our residents, by means of strategically placed Remote Outdoor Sirens of hazards, such as tornadoes or hostile attack. The Village currently has six (6) sirens in operation. These sirens have the capability of producing several different tones, each indicating a specific warning. These sirens are Outdoor Warning Sirens, designed to alert citizens that are OUTDOORS to seek shelter immediately.

## **OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS ARE NOT DESIGNED OR CAPABLE OF WARNING CITIZENS INSIDE A STRUCTURE.**

Citizens inside a home or business should monitor local radio and television channels after any WATCH or WARNING is issued. **THE DESIGNATED EMERGENCY BROADCAST STATIONS FOR LAKE COUNTY ARE, WKRS (1220 AM) AND, WXLC (102.3 FM) for updates.** While monitoring the radio and or television, remember there is no replacement for "an

eye to the sky" and the personal uneasiness of an ominous looking sky. If your intuition says, "I should probably seek shelter", then do it. You are probably right. The Village of Lake Zurich has trained Tornado Spotters in all Village departments as well as Citizen Corps and Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) that report to spotting locations throughout the Village and monitor weather conditions after a WATCH or WARNING are issued. The sole purpose of the spotters is to confirm and report actual Tornado sightings and inform dispatch to activate the Outdoor Warning Sirens.

## **A CONFIRMED SIGHTING MAY PROVIDE LITTLE OR NO TIME TO ACTIVATE SIRENS.**

### **How to prepare for tornadoes . . . before they strike**

1. Know the terms used to describe tornado threats:

- **Tornado Watch - Tornadoes are possible.** Stay tuned to radio and television reports.
  - **Tornado Warning - A tornado has been sighted.** Take shelter immediately.
  - **Severe Thunderstorm Watch - Severe thunderstorms are possible.**
  - **Severe Thunderstorm Warning - Severe thunderstorms are occurring.**
2. Purchase a NOAA Weather Radio with a battery backup and tone-alert feature, which automatically alerts you when a Watch or Warning is issued. Purchase a battery-powered commercial radio and extra batteries as well.
  3. Determine places to seek shelter such as a basement or storm cellar. If an underground shelter is not available; identify an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor.
  4. Practice going to your shelter with your family.
  5. Know the locations of designated shelters in places where you and your family spend time, such as public buildings, nursing homes and shopping centers. In a vehicle get out immediately and go to a more substantial structure or low point of land.
  6. Have emergency supplies on hand.
  7. Insure your property and possessions. Make an inventory of your possessions. Take photographs of or videotape your belongings.
  8. Keep all of your important records and documents in a safe deposit box or another safe place away from the premises.

There's no time for planning during a tornado. Sit down with your family members today and make a step-by-step plan for your family's safety.