

## What to do?

If our community is under a tornado warning, seek shelter immediately!

### If you are in a structure:

- Go to the basement, storm cellar, or the lowest building level. If there is no basement, go to the center of an interior room on the lowest level (closet, interior hallway) away from corners, windows, doors, and outside walls. Get under a sturdy table and use your arms to protect your head and neck.

### If you are in a high-rise building:

- Go to a small interior room or hallway away from windows.
- Do not open windows.

### If you are in a vehicle, trailer, or mobile home:

- Get out immediately and go to the lowest floor of a sturdy, nearby building or a storm shelter. Mobile homes offer little protection from tornadoes.

### If you are outdoors, with no available shelter:

- Lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands. Be aware of the potential for flooding.
- Do not get under an overpass or bridge. You are safer in a low, flat location.
- Never try to outrun a tornado in urban or congested areas in a car or truck. Instead, leave the vehicle immediately for safe shelter.

## FAMILY COMMUNICATION PLANNING

Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so plan how you will communicate in different situations.

- Establish two family meeting places, one immediately near home and the other outside the area, such as a relative's house. Be sure each family member is aware of these locations and carries contact numbers with them.
- In a major disaster, it may be easier to notify family of your safety via text message or long-distance call, as local communications may be hampered. Identify a friend or relative who lives out-of-state for family members to contact.

## Where to find more information about Emergency Preparedness:

National Weather Service  
[www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)

DuPage County Office of  
Homeland Security and  
Emergency Management  
[www.protectdupage.org](http://www.protectdupage.org)

Ready Illinois  
[www.ready.illinois.gov](http://www.ready.illinois.gov)

Federal Emergency Management Agency  
(FEMA)  
[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

# Severe Weather and Outdoor Warning Sirens



## OUTDOOR EMERGENCY SIRENS

The purpose of the sirens is to alert those who are outdoors to the threat of danger, either due to weather conditions or a National Emergency. If you are indoors, you may not hear the siren.

### SIRENS ARE JUST ONE TOOL TO WARN THE PUBLIC.

Take personal responsibility and exercise good common sense:

- Be alert to changing conditions when severe weather threatens.
- Monitor weather reports via All Hazards NOAA weather radio, broadcast radio or television stations, or smart phone App. NOAA radios can be purchased at retail stores or online.
- Keep an eye on the sky.
- Know when and where to seek shelter.
- Keep an emergency kit in your shelter area.

## WHEN WILL THE SIRENS SOUND?

- Sirens are TESTED year-round on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m.
- Sirens will be ACTIVATED under one or more of the following conditions:
  1. There is a confirmed sighting of a tornado headed for our community.
  2. The National Weather Service has issued a tornado warning for our community.
  3. There are confirmed reports in the community of life threatening storm damage and wind.

### WHEN YOU HEAR A SIREN PLEASE DO NOT CALL 9-1-1 TO GET INFORMATION.

9-1-1 phone lines must remain free to respond to emergency reports and dispatch police, fire and emergency services where needed.

- The siren sound means **Take Shelter Now**. Do not ignore it.
- The emergency is NOT over when the sirens stop.
- There is NO "All Clear" siren. Monitor a weather radio, local TV station or visit [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov) for the latest on the location of the storm.
- Multiple siren activation indicates an imminent impact.

## THUNDERSTORMS

Every thunderstorm produces lightning. Heavy rain can cause flash flooding, and high winds can damage homes and blow down trees and utility poles, causing widespread power outages.

### KNOW THESE TERMS ...

- **SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WATCH:** Tells you when and where severe thunderstorms are likely to occur. Watch the sky and stay tuned to an All Hazards NOAA weather radio, commercial radio, or television for information.
- **SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING:** Issued when severe weather has been reported by spotters or indicated by radar. Warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property to those in the path of the storm.

### What to Do?

If thunderstorms and lightning are occurring in your area, you should:

- Use your battery-operated All Hazards NOAA weather radio for updates from local officials.
- If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to the storm to be struck by lightning. Go to safe shelter immediately! Move to a sturdy building or car.

- Do not take shelter in small sheds, under isolated trees, or in convertible automobiles.
- If lightning is occurring and a sturdy shelter is not available, get inside a hardtop automobile and roll the windows up.
- Get out of boats and away from water.
- Telephone lines and electrical lines can conduct electricity. Avoid using hard-wired "landline" phones or any electrical appliances.
- Avoid showering or bathing. Plumbing and bathroom fixtures can conduct electricity.
- Secure outdoor objects that could blow away or cause damage.
- Shutter windows and secure outside doors. If shutters are not available, close window blinds, shades, or curtains.
- Unplug appliances and other electrical items such as computers and turn off air conditioners. Power surges from lightning can cause serious damage.

## TORNADOES

Tornadoes may strike quickly with little or no warning. They may appear nearly transparent until dust and debris are picked up or a cloud forms in the funnel. Look for the following danger signs:

- Dark, often greenish sky
- Large hail
- A large, dark, low-lying cloud (particularly if rotating)
- Loud roar, similar to a freight train.

### KNOW THESE TERMS ...

- **TORNADO WATCH:** Weather conditions are favorable for a tornado to develop. Be prepared to take cover at short notice as tornadoes can develop suddenly.
- **TORNADO WARNING:** A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Take shelter immediately!