

ARE YOU READY?

Winter 2007

TORNADOES

Tornadoes are nature's most violent storms. Spawned from powerful thunderstorms, tornadoes can cause fatalities and devastate a neighborhood in seconds. A tornado appears as a rotating, funnel-shaped cloud that extends from a thunderstorm to the ground with whirling winds that can reach 300 miles per hour. Damage paths can be in excess of one mile wide and 50 miles long. Every state is at some risk from this hazard. Winfield Township is in the high risk area for tornadoes, but is not in the highest risk area.

Some tornadoes are clearly visible, while rain or nearby low-hanging clouds obscure others. Occasionally, tornadoes develop so rapidly that little, if

any, advance warning is possible.

Before a tornado hits, the wind may die down and the air may become very still. A cloud of debris can mark the location of a tornado even if a funnel is not visible. Tornadoes generally occur near the trailing edge of a thunderstorm. It is not uncommon to see clear, sunlit skies behind a tornado.

Facts about Tornadoes

- They 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.
- The average tornado moves Southwest to Northeast, but

tornadoes have been known to move in any direction.

- The average forward speed of tornado is 3 mph, but may vary from stationary to 70 mph.
- Tornadoes are most frequently reported east of the Rocky Mountains during spring and summer months.
- Peak tornado season in the southern states is March through May; in the northern states, it is late spring to early summer.
- Tornadoes are most likely to occur between 3:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. but can occur at any time.

KNOW THE TERMS

Tornado Watch

Tornadoes are possible. Remain alert for approaching storms. Watch the sky and stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television for information.

Tornado Warning

A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Take shelter immediately.

Important Phone Numbers:

Winfield Township-Supervisor

- 630-231-3591

Winfield Township-Assessor

- 630-231-3573

Winfield Township-Highway

- 630-231-8850

West Chicago Fire Dept.

- 630-231-2123

West Chicago Police Dept.

- 630-293-2222

West Chicago City Hall

- 630-293-2200

Warrenville Fire Dept.

- 630-393-1381

Warrenville Police Dept.

- 630-393-2131

Warrenville City Hall

- 630-393-9427

Winfield Fire Dept.

- 630-653-5050

Winfield Police Dept.

- 630-933-7160

Winfield City Hall

- 630-933-7100

Wheaton Fire Dept.

- 630-260-2175

Wheaton Police Dept.

- 630-260-2161

Wheaton City Hall

- 630-260-2000

Aurora Fire Dept.

- 630-897-7821

Aurora Police Dept.

- 630-859-1700

Aurora City Hall

- 630-844-4870

DuPage Co. Sheriff's Office

- 630-407-2400

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TAKE PROTECTIVE MEASURES

Be alert to changing weather conditions:

- Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or to commercial radio or television news-casts for the latest information.
- Look for approaching storms.
- 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.

If you see approaching storms or any of the danger signs, be prepared to take shelter immediately.

DURING A TORNADO

If you are in:	Then:
A structure (e.g. residence, small building, school, nursing home, hospital, factory, shopping center, high-rise building)	Go to a pre-designated shelter area such as a safe room, 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. Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside. Get under a sturdy table and use your arms to protect your head and neck. Do not open windows.
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, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes.
The outside with no 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 safe 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. Watch out for flying debris. Flying debris from tornadoes causes most fatalities.