

YORKVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

April 2008

National Safety Council

The Yorkville Police Department is a member of the National Safety Council and receives safety tips on a various type of activities.

We would like to share one of these safety tips with you each month. This month's safety tip has to do with spring and what it brings- bugs.

The best way to avoid bites is to make yourself unappetizing to bugs. Sweet smells attract insects. Don't leave out food or open drinks. Never drink from a can or bottle that might have an insect inside.

Do not use colognes, perfumes, scented soaps or hairsprays. Do apply insect repellent (follow directions on label).

Cover up with long pants, long-sleeve shirts, socks, shoes and a hat. Dress in pale colors, such as light green, tan, and khaki, and avoid clothing with bright colors or flowery prints. Protect your hands with gloves.

Be aware of insects' nests. Yellow jackets nest in the ground and in walls. Hornets and wasps nest in bushes, trees and under the eaves of buildings. Spiders prefer dark areas. Insects are most active at dawn and dusk.

Have a safe spring this year and be aware of your surroundings.



Tornados 101

With spring approaching, households should prepare for storms and the possibility of severe weather, including tornados.

When conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop, a severe thunderstorm or tornado WATCH is issued. Weather Service personnel use information from weather radar, spotters, and other sources to issue severe thunderstorm and tornado WARNINGS for areas where severe weather is imminent. Severe thunderstorm and tornado warnings are passed to local radio and television stations and are broadcast over local National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio stations serving the warned areas. These warnings are also relayed to local emergency management and public safety officials who can activate local warning systems to alert communities. If a tornado warning is issued for your area or the sky becomes threatening, move to your pre-designated place of safety.

What about the sirens in town?

The following are guidelines to the two types of weather sirens we have in the United City of Yorkville - weather/civil warning sirens and lightning detection sirens.



Lightning Detection Sirens

What are these?

These are sirens that are located at most parks and schools that have fields used for outdoor sport activities.

What does it mean?

If you hear one, long blast, it means to seek shelter indoors and take precautions for weather with lightning involved. If you hear three shorter blasts, it means the immediate threat of lightning has passed...it does not mean more isn't on the way!!

These sirens are meant to aid coaches and adults in keeping children safe. They are machines, and are not one-hundred-percent. Adults should continue to use their judgment in making sure it is safe to hold games and let children play on open fields.

We encourage coaches to discuss the weather issues before they occur so there is no misunderstandings as what to do. The coaches should work as a team to make our sports safer for all involved.

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Weather Warning Sirens

When do the sirens go off?

The first Tuesday of each month at 10:00am, the weather warning sirens are tested.

The weather warning sirens are activated for severe weather based on information received from the National Weather Service. Kendall County ESDA activates the sirens for such emergencies.

What does it mean?

When the sirens go off for weather-based emergencies, it means to seek shelter and follow precautions for tornados. Is there an all-clear siren?

Kendall County does not issue an all-clear siren after severe weather has passed. Make sure you have a battery-operated radio and listen to the local radio stations for updated information. DO NOT CALL 9-1-1 for this information!

Additional Information

For some quick guidelines for tornado weather, go to the American Red Cross for information on preparedness at <http://www.redcross.org>. Look

for weather tips under Services, then Disaster Services.

Here are some more direct links for tornado guidelines, as well as some local radio info:

Guidelines:

http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/0,1082,0_591_00.html#Warn

Brochure:

http://www.redcross.org/static/file_cont244_lang0_114.pdf

WSPY: Radio Chanel - 107.1

Traffic Corner

With the warmer weather that comes with spring and summer, comes an increased chance of severe weather. The afternoon rush hour is the most dangerous time of the day. This is the time that tornados are most likely to be spurred due to the increase of the heat during the day. Being in a motor vehicle during a tornado increases the chance of being injured or killed. It is important to remember the main facts about vehicle safety during a tornado.

First and foremost, do not attempt to outrun a tornado. These powerful funnels have wind speeds from 100-300 miles per hour. With wind like this, a vehicle that weighs a couple of tons can easily be picked up and thrown into the funnel causing injury and in sometimes even death. It is more important if a tornado is coming, to exit your vehicle and crawl into a ditch or even seek shelter in an indoor structure if possible. It was believed in the

past that a safe alternative to an indoor structure would be a highway overpass. Research has now shown that this option is not as safe as it was once thought.

Highway overpasses might offer protection from the hail stones, but the wind tunnel effect that is caused from the solid surface of both road surfaces creates a dangerous situation. The wind can actually pull a person out from under the overpass. As mentioned previously, the best form of protection from a tornado is to get to indoor shelter or to lie in a ditch.

Another safety tip when dealing with severe weather, such as lightening, is to stay indoors when a lightening storm is approaching. Lightening can strike a few miles ahead of a storm and not only when the storm is actively raining, thundering or lightening. A vehicle can provide better shelter from a storm, but keep in mind that if a tree branch or other such object falls on a vehicle, it can cause injury to those who are in it.

Drive safe and be aware of your surroundings.

On the Web

City Ordinances & Information:
www.yorkville.il.us

Illinois Laws:

www.legis.state.il.us

Secretary of State:

www.cyberdriveillinois.com