



YORKVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

April 2011

Severe Weather

With summer weather just around the corner, we would like to review a few tips and reminders to keep you and your family safe.

Facts About Thunderstorms

- They may occur singly, in clusters, or in lines.
- Some of the most severe occur when a single thunderstorm affects one location for an extended time.
- Thunderstorms typically produce heavy rain for a brief period, anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour.
- Warm, humid conditions are highly favorable for thunderstorm development.
- About 10 percent of thunderstorms are classified as severe—one that produces hail at least three-quarters of an inch in diameter, has winds of 58 miles per hour or higher, or produces a tornado.

Facts About Lightning

- Lightning's unpredictability increases the risk to individuals and property.
- Lightning often strikes outside of heavy rain and may occur as far as 10 miles away from any rainfall.
- "Heat lightning" is actually lightning from a thunderstorm too far away for thunder to be heard. However, the storm may be moving in your direction!

- Most lightning deaths and injuries occur when people are caught outdoors in the summer months during the afternoon and evening.
- Your chances of being struck by lightning are estimated to be 1 in 600,000, but could be reduced even further by following safety precautions.
- Lightning strike victims carry no electrical charge and should be attended to immediately.

To prepare for a thunderstorm, you should do the following:

- Remove dead or rotting trees and branches that could fall and cause injury or damage during a severe thunderstorm.
- "*If thunder roars, go indoors*" because no place outside is safe when lightning is in the area. We want everyone to stay indoors until 30 minutes have passed after they hear the last clap of thunder.

If a thunderstorm is likely in your area:

- Postpone outdoor activities.
- Get inside a home, building, or hard top automobile (not a convertible). Although you may be injured if lightning strikes your car, you are much safer inside a vehicle than outside.
- Remember, rubber-soled shoes and rubber tires provide NO protection from lightning. However, the steel frame of a hard-topped vehicle provides

increased protection if you are not touching metal.

- Secure outdoor objects that could blow away or cause damage.
- Avoid contact with electrical equipment or cords. Unplug appliances and other electrical items such as computers and turn off air conditioners well before the storm arrives. Power surges from lightning can cause serious damage.
- Avoid contact with plumbing. Do not wash your hands, do not take a shower, do not wash dishes, and do not do laundry. Plumbing and bathroom fixtures can conduct electricity.
- Stay away from windows and doors, and stay off porches.
- Shutter windows and secure outside doors. If shutters are not available, close window blinds, shades, or curtains.
- Do not lie on concrete floors and do not lean against concrete walls.
- Use a corded telephone only for emergencies. Cordless and cellular telephones are safe to use.
- Use your battery-operated NOAA Weather Radio for updates from local officials.

Avoid the following:

- Natural lightning rods such as a tall, isolated tree in an open area.

- Hilltops, open fields, the beach, or a boat on the water.
- Isolated sheds or other small structures in open areas.
- Anything metal—tractors, farm equipment, motorcycles, golf carts, golf clubs, and bicycles.

All thunderstorms are dangerous. Every thunderstorm produces lightning. In the United States, an average of 300 people are injured and 80 people are killed each year by lightning. Although most lightning victims survive, people struck by lightning often report a variety of long-term, debilitating symptoms. Other associated dangers of thunderstorms include tornadoes, strong winds, hail, and flash flooding. Flash flooding is responsible for more fatalities—more than 140 annually—than any other thunderstorm-associated hazard.

(From: www.fema.gov/hazard/tornado/index.shtm)

ReportIt

LeadsOnline, in partnership with local police departments, would like to encourage citizens to register their new purchases as well as their other valuable items with ReportIt. LeadsOnline provides a system for maintaining secure records of property you own. You may store serial numbers, item descriptions, pictures and scans of receipts so that your items may be easily identified in the event of theft or loss. This record may also come in handy when reporting any loss to your insurance provider.

ReportIt is a free service that you can access from anywhere via their secure site. If your property is ever stolen, you can use the list to assist police. It is used only as an inventory system to provide to law enforcement agencies and insurance providers in the event of

loss. For more information or to create an account, please go to reportit.leadsonline.com.

Open Burning Ordinance

We would like to remind you that the burning of materials other than untreated paper and paper products and wood is prohibited in the City of Yorkville. The burning of untreated paper and paper products and wood is only permissible during daylight hours. The fire must be in a wire container to prevent the blowing of any burning material. Campfires in connection with group camp outings (such as scouts) or for recreational purposes by individuals are permitted, provided that the above guidelines are followed.

Violators may be issued a mandatory appearance ordinance citation. They will be required to attend an administrative hearing. If found liable, fines and court costs will be assessed by the hearing officer. For more detailed information, please see Section 4-1-1 of the City Code Book.

If you do have recreational fires, please practice good fire safety and be courteous of your neighbors. Avoid burning on particularly windy days or when it is very dry. Both can potentially lead to embers blowing and starting nearby grass, brush or other objects on fire. Smoke blowing from the fire may irritate nearby neighbors as well. When you are done enjoying your fire, make sure it is completely extinguished before leaving it unattended.

Noise Ordinance

The Yorkville Police Department would like to wish everyone a safe and courteous spring and summer. Please respect your neighbors and remember sound carries.

4-4-3 - Hours

- A. Day Hours: No person shall cause or allow the emission of sound during daytime hours (7:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M.) from any noise source to any receiving residential land which exceeds sixty five (65) dBA when measured at any point within such receiving residential land, provided; however, that point of measurement shall be on the property line of the complainant.
- B. Night Hours: No person shall cause or allow the emission of sound during nighttime hours (10:00 P.M. to 7:00 A.M.) from any noise source to any receiving residential land which exceeds fifty five (55) dBA when measured at any point within such receiving residential land provided, however, that point of measurement shall be on the property line of the complainant. (Ord. 2001-10, 3-22-2001)

To find out more on the United City of Yorkville Ordinances visit www.yorkville.il.us.

Painful Acoustic Trauma	140	Shotgun blast
	130	Jet engine 100 feet away
Extremely Loud	120	Rock concert
	110	Car horn, snowblower
	100	Blow dryer, subway, helicopter, chainsaw
Very Loud	90	Motorcycle, lawn mower, convertible ride on highway
	80	Factory, noisy restaurant, vacuum, screaming child
Loud	70	Car, alarm clock, city traffic
	60	Conversation, dishwasher
Moderate	50	Moderate rainfall
	40	Refrigerator
Faint	30	Whisper, library
	20	Watch ticking
dB levels		

(From: http://www.thehearingdoctorstl.com/Hearing_Healthy.html)