



FIRE NEWS

VILLAGE OF OAK PARK

VOLUME I, ISSUE I

Important Message from the Emergency Preparedness Team

Severe weather threat grows as temperatures rise

With the spring and summer, comes the threat of severe weather. Being storm ready can save lives and property. The West Suburban Consolidated Dispatch Center (WSCDC), the emergency 9-1-1 hub for Oak Park, River Forest and Elmwood Park, sounds a warning siren when a tornado is sighted within a 10 mile radius. The sirens also are activated at 10 a.m. on the first Tuesday of every month as part of a regular statewide test. Tornadoes cause an average of 70 fatalities and 1,500 injuries each year. So, if the siren sounds, follow these rules:

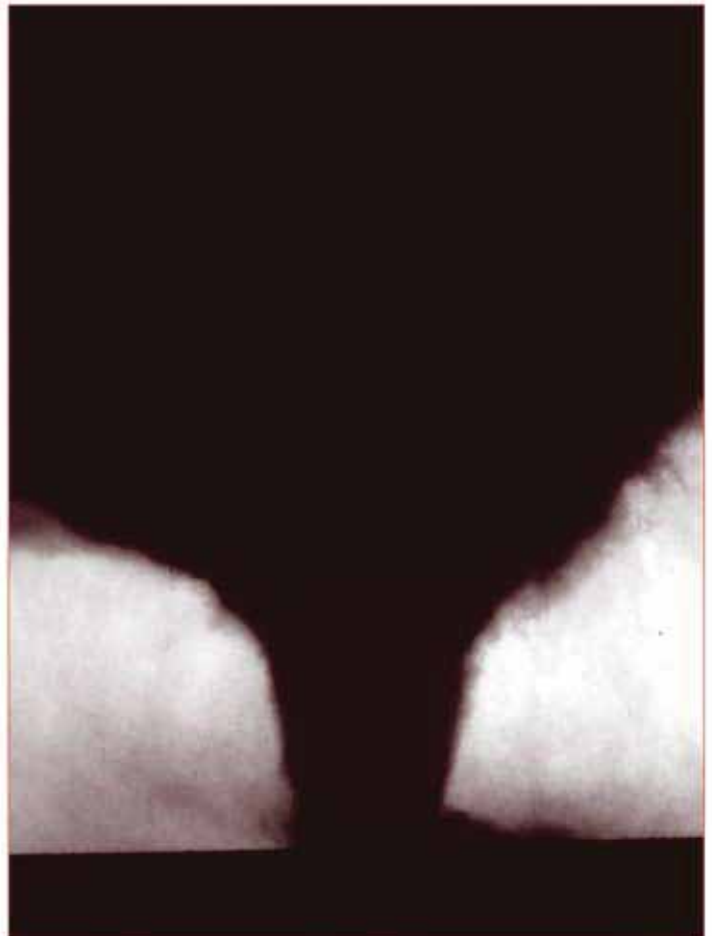
If in your home or other building...

- go to the lowest floor, center room, interior hallway or a room without windows
- crouch as low as possible to the floor, facing down and cover your head with your hands
- cover yourself with some sort of thick padding for protection against falling debris
- stay off elevators

If driving or outside...

- get out of vehicle and seek shelter in a sturdy building
- if no shelter is nearby, run to low ground away from any cars, lie flat and face down, protect the back of your head with your arms
- avoid seeking shelter under bridges, which can create deadly traffic hazards while offering little protection against flying debris

Since no all-clear signals are issued, tune in to a weather station or a local radio/television station to determine when the threat of severe weather has passed.



For more information...

Local siren warning system:

WSCDC: 708.771.9110

Severe weather preparedness:

Oak Park Fire Department: 708.445.3300
or fire@oak-park.us

National weather advisories:

National Weather Service: www.spc.noaa.gov