

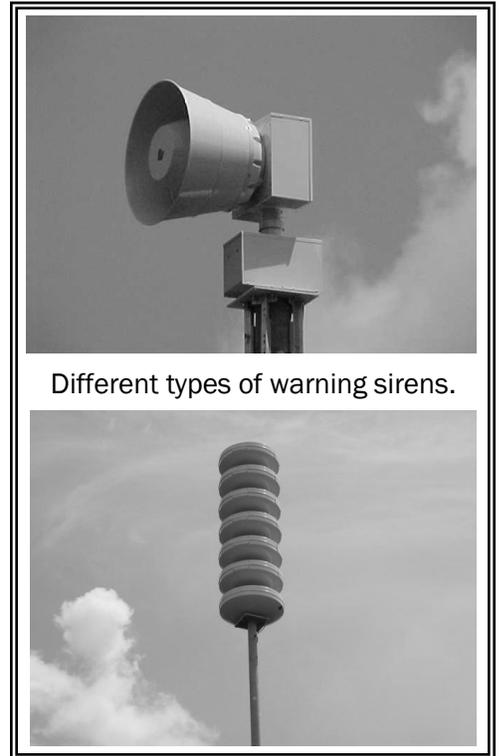


VILLAGE WARNING SIRENS

The Village of Mount Prospect maintains six (6) warning sirens located throughout the community to notify residents who are outdoors of a probable or imminent tornado. These sirens are a proven method to warn people at ball games, in their yard, or elsewhere who are not in contact with a radio or television. It is important to understand when Mount Prospect's warning sirens will be activated as surrounding communities may have different policies for activating their sirens. It is also important to understand what to do when a siren activates as immediate action must be taken.

For your reference, warning sirens can be found at the following locations:

1. Lions Park (Maple Street & Shabonee Trail)
2. Marcella Road & Gregory Lane
3. Algonquin Road & Linneman Road
4. Indian Grove School (1340 N. Burning Bush Lane)
5. Prospect High School (Forest Avenue & Kensington Road)
6. Busse Road at Estates Drive (Mount Prospect Golf Club)



Different types of warning sirens.

The Five Ws (and one H) of Warning Sirens:

Q: WHO is responsible for activating the warning sirens?

A: The Village's 9-1-1 Dispatch Center is responsible for activating the Village owned warning sirens.

Q: WHAT should I do when I hear the warning sirens activate?

A: If indoors at the time of activation: (1) Seek shelter immediately in the lowest level of your house, preferably in an interior room away from doors and windows. (2) Tune into radio or television stations for the latest information. (3) Remain in your place of shelter until the threat has passed.

If outdoors at the time of activation: (1) Seek shelter indoors, but not in a car or mobile home. (2) If there are no safe options indoors and a tornado is imminent, lie flat in the nearest ditch or depression and use your hands to cover your head.

**** Do not call 9-1-1 when the warning sirens are activated unless you have an actual emergency.****

Q: WHEN are warning sirens activated?

A: Warning sirens are only activated when (1) the National Weather Service issues a tornado warning for our area AND (2) there is a reasonable belief that Mount Prospect or a surrounding community will be affected. Sirens will not activate to notify the public of severe thunderstorm watches, severe thunderstorm warnings, tornado watches, flood watches, or flood warnings.

Warning sirens are tested on the first Tuesday of every month at 10 AM. All public warning devices throughout the State of Illinois are tested at this same time.

Q: WHERE can warning sirens be heard?

A: Warning sirens are designed to notify those individuals who are outdoors of a probable or imminent tornado. Warning sirens are not designed or intended to penetrate the walls of homes and businesses, which means you may not always hear them inside your home. For that reason, it is important to have a NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) weather radio as part of your emergency preparedness plan. Weather radios broadcast local emergency and severe weather information from the National Weather Service and can be purchased at local retailers such as Walmart, Home Depot, and Menards.

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Q: WHY don't the warning sirens always activate when a tornado warning is issued by the National Weather Service?

A: The National Weather Service is responsible for issuing tornado watches and warnings. Since they monitor the weather for the entire country, these watches and warnings are issued by county or portions of a county. Cook County is approximately 950 square miles, and weather can vary significantly from one end to the other. In an effort to provide more accurate information and reduce the number of false activations for Mount Prospect our 9-1-1 Dispatch Center, which activates the warning sirens, subscribes to a private weather service that monitors the conditions specific to our community. As a result, there may be times that the National Weather Service issues a tornado warning for Cook County, but the Village's warning sirens are not activated. In these instances, our private weather service is telling us that the threat is located somewhere else in Cook County and Mount Prospect will not be affected. If you are ever in doubt about the proper course of action, remember it is always better to err on the side of caution when dealing with tornadoes.

Q: HOW do I know the threat of a tornado has passed and an "all clear" has been issued?

A: Neither the National Weather Service nor the Village of Mount Prospect issues an "all clear." We recommend you tune into local radio and television stations for the most up to date information on the status of severe weather. A good rule of thumb is to wait 30 minutes past the last time you hear the warning sirens activate - and once conditions improve.

Remember

1 - 2 - 3 - SAFETY



1. Tornado Watch

Tornado watches are issued by the National Weather Service when weather conditions exist that could cause a tornado to form. When a tornado watch is issued you need to stay alert and be prepared to seek shelter in case a tornado warning is issued. Tune to local radio and television stations, as well as your NOAA weather radio, for the most up to date information. **Be aware that a tornado watch can turn into a tornado warning at any time!**

2. Tornado Warning

Tornado warnings are issued when the National Weather Service detects a tornado either on the ground or in the air. When a tornado warning is issued, *and our area is mentioned*, seek shelter immediately. Monitor local radio and television stations for the most up to date information. **The time to act is now!**

3. Warning Siren Activation

When you hear the warning sirens activated the threat to Mount Prospect is imminent. Seek shelter immediately if you have not already and tune into local radio and television stations for further information. **You have no time to waste!**

SAFETY

Remember to take necessary precautions as early as possible. Don't wait for the sirens to activate or it may be too late! Remain alert and pay attention to weather conditions that may indicate a possible tornado. Here are some of the things to look and listen for:

- Rotating clouds
- Whirling dust or debris
- Loud continuous rumble that does not fade in a few seconds like thunder or a train