

Know the Terms Used to Describe a Tornado or Severe Thunderstorm Threat:

WATCH – A tornado or severe thunderstorm is possible. Watch the sky and listen to the radio or television for more information. Be prepared to take shelter.

WARNING – A tornado or severe thunderstorm has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. For a tornado or severe thunderstorm warning, take shelter immediately, turn on a battery-operated radio or television, and wait for the “all clear” announcement by authorities.

Every year lives are threatened or lost and property is destroyed by severe weather events. There are a variety of severe weather hazards that affect Illinois, including thunderstorms and tornadoes.

Tornadoes pose the greatest severe weather risk to residents of Illinois. An average of 27 tornadoes occur in the state per year. Severe thunderstorms can also produce very damaging winds. They can cause significant structural damage to buildings, especially weaker structures, such as barns and outbuildings.

If a tornado is sighted within 10 miles of Northbrook, the Outdoor Warning System will be activated!

What You Should Know About the Outdoor Warning Siren System

Northbrook has a siren warning system installed throughout the community.

The system consists of a series of sirens strategically located and is intended to provide warning of impending danger. **You may only hear the sirens if you are outside.**

Warning System Activation

The system is designed to notify the community by **Alert Warning** and **Attack Warning** signals. The signals are standardized for outdoor warning devices by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Alert Warning

An **Alert Warning** signal is a 3 to 5 minute steady siren. This signal is used during a severe weather emergency in the event of a tornado or funnel cloud sighting. The reporting area includes a ten-mile perimeter around the Village. The **Alert Warning** signal shall indicate to all persons to “immediately seek shelter, turn on your radio or television, and listen for essential emergency information.” *Please note, severe weather watches are reports of weather conditions in which tornadoes could occur. The warning system is not activated for severe weather watches.*

Attack Warning

An **Attack Warning** signal is a 3 to 5 minute wavering siren. This signal means that an actual attack against the United States has been detected and that the Federal Emergency Broadcast System has been activated. According to federal government guidelines, “this signal will be used for no other purpose and will have no other meaning.”

Reactivation

Once it is activated, the warning sirens will not be reactivated for the same incident. The warning sirens will be reactivated only for new, confirmed incidents.

All Clear

In keeping with established policies, the Village of Northbrook will not issue the all clear for any **Alert** or **Attack** signals. Please monitor commercial radio and television for further information.

Things to Remember!

- ⚡ Know the different signals.
- ⚡ Know what to do.
- ⚡ Have a battery-operated radio available.
- ⚡ Outdoor siren testing takes place the first Tuesday of every month at 10:00am. If severe weather appears imminent during the normal test time, the test will be postponed until the next day.

NOTE: There will be a statewide test of the Outdoor Alert System at 10am on Tuesday, March 1st. *