

Tornado Season Guidelines  
**-Vincent Cullen-**  
**Superintendent of Public Works**

Once again, the tornado season is upon us. The primary season for tornados throughout the Midwest runs from the month of March through the month September. The Village of Alsip Advance Warning System is only used in the event of a **Tornado Warning**, not a Tornado Watch.

A **Tornado Watch** means the weather conditions are favorable for the development of a tornado. During a Tornado Watch, you should stay alert to rapidly changing weather conditions, stay close to home, tune into local T.V. and weather radio stations for up-to-date reports, and be ready to seek shelter immediately should the need arise.

A **Tornado Warning** means a tornado has been reported or spotted on radar, and is approaching or is already in the immediate area. The Village of Alsip Tornado Advance Warning Siren is a continuous three (3) to five (5) minute blast. During a Tornado Warning, you should seek shelter immediately. Go directly to the lowest level of your home and seek shelter under a strong support such as a heavy duty table or work bench. If in a single level home, seek shelter away from windows and in an innermost closet or bathroom, keep away from windows and doors, and protect yourself from flying objects. Do not open windows, as this will not prevent damage to the home and wastes valuable time that could be much better spent seeking safe shelter. Always stay sheltered until the threat has passed.

Please remember to refrain from calling the police and fire departments during a Tornado Warning with questions about the warning siren. These calls tie up phone lines, and prevent emergency calls for help from getting through. Instead, tune in to your local T.V. and radio stations for up-to-date reports, and most importantly, "**Be Prepared.**" Practice tornado drills in your home with the whole family, know where to go during a Tornado Warning, and pick out your safe shelter in advance. Knowing the difference between a fire siren and a tornado siren will in itself eliminate much confusion. Every Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m. the Village of Alsip conducts a test of the advance warning system in accordance with the State guidelines.