



**MANAGER'S REPORT FOR MARCH 2, 2012**  
**GENERAL INFORMATION AND RESPONSES TO MAYOR & COMMISSIONER REQUESTS**

***Places to be this Week...***

**Tuesday, March 6, 2012** – The regular meeting of the Village Council will be held at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Village Hall.

***Future Calendar Reminders...***

**Village Council Meeting** – The regular Village Council meeting will be held **Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at 7 PM** in the Council Chambers at Village Hall.

**Coffee with the Council** – A Coffee with the Council will take place on **Saturday, March 17, 2012 at 9 AM** at the Park District Recreational Center on Belmont Road.

**Coffee with the Council** – A Coffee with the Council will take place on **Saturday, April 21, 2012 at 9 AM** at Oak Trace Senior Living Community, 200 Village Drive.

**County-wide Outdoor Siren Activation Guidelines** - Effective March 2, 2012, the Village will begin using the county-wide guidelines for the activation of outdoor sirens that have been developed to achieve consistency in the event that multiple jurisdictions need to activate warning sirens. The following criteria shall be used to determine if the sirens should be activated:

- A confirmed sighting of a tornado, tracking toward the community, is reported by a trained weather spotter within the community or surrounding communities
- The receipt of a tornado warning, issued by the National Weather Service, including the community
- Reports of significant on-going storm damage

This new guideline is being adopted by all communities that are served by the DuComm dispatching center. Additionally, the DuPage County Associations of Fire Chiefs, Police Chiefs and Emergency Management Coordinators have endorsed the guidelines. The new guidelines are provided as an attachment.

Village staff including our Emergency Management Coordinator, Village Operations Center Manager, Police Chief and Fire Chief played leadership roles in the development of the County-wide activation guidelines. You may recall that this county-wide effort was sparked by a series of severe storms in June and July of 2011.

**Stormwater Utility Final Report** – On Monday, March 5, 2012, staff will publish the final report of the Stormwater Utility Study, completed by Municipal & Financial Services Group (MFSG). MFSG will present the report at the March 13, 2012 Village Council meeting. The MFSG presentation on March 13 will be followed by a staff presentation and Council consideration of the study recommendations.

**Community Resource Information System (C.R.I.S.)** – In response to Council discussion regarding the Human Service Commission's recommendation to create and maintain a searchable website containing available social services, the Village is partnering with DuPage County to facilitate the participation of Downers Grove non-profit agencies in the County's online, searchable database of social service providers (C.R.I.S.).

The Village will host two training sessions in March to assist non-profits with registration in the C.R.I.S. system. The invitation for the upcoming trainings was distributed to 60 non-profits via email on March 2, 2012.

The C.R.I.S. website will allow Downers Grove residents to search for social service providers from the following categories:

- Basic Needs
- Consumer Services
- Criminal Justice and Legal Services
- Education
- Environmental and Public Health/Safety
- Healthcare
- Income Support and Employment
- Individual and Family Life
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
- Organizational/Community/International Services

The C.R.I.S. system can be accessed at <http://www.dupagecris.org/> . Use of the C.R.I.S. system allows the Village access to a fully accredited information and referral system at no cost. DuPage County has a full-time employee who manages the information available on the C.R.I.S. system. She works to ensure the C.R.I.S. system is AIRS compliant, the primary quality assurance mechanism for human service referral systems. DuPage County is currently working on two upgrades to the C.R.I.S. system. First, the County is reaching out to organizations to ensure their information is on the site and up-to-date. Second, the County is working to refine the search process and to ensure constituents are finding the most relevant information. County staff will be working on this project throughout 2012.

Staff will update the Village Council as the project progresses. The invitation to the training sessions is provided as an attachment. Once Downers Grove NFP's have submitted their information to the C.R.I.S. program, staff will invite County staff members to attend a Village Council meeting to present the system. Further, the link to the C.R.I.S. system will be prominently displayed on the Village homepage and promoted using various communication platforms.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Outdoor Siren Activation Guidelines

Invitation to Non-Profit Agencies

## DuPage County Outdoor Warning System Model Policy and Guidelines

### Purpose

The purpose of this document is to establish a county-wide guideline for the use of municipal outdoor warning systems (referred to in this document as “warning sirens”). A commonly accepted and endorsed set of activation guidelines will foster a coordinated system for warning DuPage residents of tornados or severe weather posing an immediate life-threat.

### Discussion

Tornado siren activations are typically dependent on tornado warnings issued by the National Weather Service. Severe weather conditions often change rapidly and can be difficult to precisely predict. Due to the current limitations of storm forecasting, outdoor warning system cannot always be activated when dangerous weather conditions are present. In spite of the best efforts and procedures employed by public safety agencies and weather forecasters, no outdoor warning system is 100% accurate. While outdoor warning sirens should be sounded as soon as possible according to set guidelines, the public should not exclusively rely on these systems for severe weather warning. The public must take personal responsibility for being aware of current weather conditions and, when threatening conditions are present, be prepared to take shelter. Besides outdoor warning sirens, the combined use of NOAA weather radios, local news media and public education must be part of a well-rounded severe weather warning system.

### Policy

When life threatening weather conditions are known and present, outdoor warning sirens should be activated with as much advanced notice as practical and in accordance with these guidelines.

### System Testing

According to the Illinois Emergency Management Act (20 ILCS 3305 / 12):

The testing of disaster warning devices including outdoor warning sirens shall be held only on the first Tuesday of each month at 10 o'clock in the morning or during exercises that are specifically and expressly approved in advance by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency.

In compliance with the IEMA Act, DuPage County entities will test warning sirens on the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 AM. Testing will not be conducted if severe weather is affecting DuPage County or nearby areas to avoid the possibility of the test being mistaken for an actual activation.

## System Testing (cont.)

1. During the activation test, for training continuity, it is suggested that agencies announce over DCERN:

*“(Your Agency’s Name) is activating its outdoor warning sirens for the monthly test.”*

**(Due to numerous tests occurring at the same time, please be courteous when making test announcements over DCERN)**

2. For testing purposes, warning sirens should be activated for one (1) minute and then deactivated.

## System Activation Criteria

The following criteria should be used to determine when to activate the community siren warning system:

- A confirmed sighting of a tornado, tracking toward the community, is reported by a trained weather spotter within the community or surrounding communities.
- The receipt of a tornado warning, issued by the National Weather Service, including the community.
- Reports of significant ongoing storm damage (i.e. uprooted trees, structural damage, multiple broken windows, de-roofings) secondary to storm-related winds.

Personnel given authorization to activate the siren system will be determined by the jurisdiction having authority.

## System Activation

When the system activation criteria are met the following procedures should be followed:

1. Activate the siren warning system for three (3) to five (5) minutes.
2. After activation, announce over DCERN that you have activated your sirens and why. This will communicate vital information to neighboring communities possibly in the path of the danger, as well as help avoid confusion regarding why your sirens are activated.

## System Activation (cont.)

As an example:

*“(Your Agency’s Name) is activating it’s outdoor warning sirens for the confirmed funnel cloud sighting in our community ...I repeat... (Your Agency’s Name) is activating it’s outdoor warning sirens for the confirmed tornado sighting in our community.”*

3. If previously activated for a NWS Tornado Warning, the siren system may be re-sounded for a new report of a tornado on the ground, resulting from the same storm.

## All Clear / Warning Termination

In keeping with accepted national best practices, **no** “All Clear” or “Weather Warning Termination” soundings of community sirens will be done. Residents should refer to their NOAA weather radio and/or commercial news reports for information on the status of severe weather warnings.

## Training

It is recommended that, when practical, public employees take a National Weather Service recognized severe weather spotter course. Having a cadre of weather spotters will increase a community’s ability to identify immediately life-threatening weather conditions. A list of scheduled spotter classes is available on the NWS website. An online spotter course is also available at: [http://www.meted.ucar.edu/spotter\\_training/spotter\\_role/index.htm](http://www.meted.ucar.edu/spotter_training/spotter_role/index.htm).

## Public Education

Every jurisdiction’s public safety education program should include information regarding severe weather and community warning sirens. The more residents understand when and why warning sirens are used, the less confusion there will be when a warning system is activated. Residents must also understand that outdoor warning sirens are not designed to provide effective warning inside homes, buildings, or vehicles. Residents must be educated to have realistic expectations regarding the limitations of outdoor warning systems and how to employ personal responsibility for their safety. All residents should have a NOAA weather radio with S.A.M.E. technology in their home and practice what to do when severe weather warnings are issued. Education programs should address not calling 911 in response to siren activation, except to report an actual emergency.

## Emergency Management Coordinators Association of DuPage

January 16, 2012

Mr. Norm Sturm, Director  
DuPage County Office of  
Homeland Security and Emergency Management  
136 N. county Farm Rd.  
Wheaton, Il. 60187

Director Sturm,

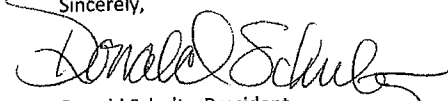
At the November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011 meeting, the members of the Association voted to approve the DuPage County Model Outdoor Warning System Policy and Guidelines.

With a more uniform, County-wide, response to severe weather notifications we believe there can be improved public reaction of protective actions needed during these events.

It is with continued support of the Association, through training of Local Municipal/Government personnel and efforts to educate the public about severe weather, that effective lifesaving measures can be achieved.

Thank You for working with the various departments and agencies to review and bring forward this updated policy. This Association looks forward to working with and having DuPage Homeland Security and Emergency Management a valued member of the Emergency Management Coordinators Association of DuPage.

Sincerely,



Donald Schultz, President  
Emergency Management Coordinators Association of DuPage

c/o Bensenville Emergency Management Agency, 100 N. Church Rd. Bensenville, Il. 60106



## DuPAGE COUNTY CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION

*Incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois March 21, 1963*

**President**  
Chief Bradley Bloom

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**  
Chief Timothy "Bill" Hayden

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**  
Chief Frank Biniewicz

**Secretary**  
Chief Scott Heber

**Treasurer**  
Chief Steve Herron

**Ex-Officio Officer**  
Sheriff John Zaruba

**Past President**  
Chief Robert Porter

**Sergeant-at-Arms**  
Chief David Webb

**Parliamentarian**  
Chief Mark Field

**Executive Committee:**  
Chief Thomas Mulhearn  
Chief James Kruger, Jr.  
Chief Mark Shelton  
Chief Kent Williams

**Motto:** "Dedicated to professional police administration in DuPage County."

**Purpose:** "This Association shall be to advance the science and art of police administration and crime prevention; to develop and disseminate improved administrative and technical practices and promote their use in police work; to foster police cooperation and the exchange of information and experience among police administrators throughout the County of DuPage; to bring about enlistment and training in the police profession of qualified persons; and to encourage adherence of all police officers to high professional standards of conduct."

January 13, 2012

Mr. Norman A. Sturm, Director  
DuPage County Office of  
Homeland Security & Emergency Management  
136 N. County Farm Road  
Wheaton, IL 60187

Dear Director Sturm:

The DuPage County Chiefs of Police participated and provided input into the formulation of a new county-wide outdoor warning system activation guidelines and policy.

At our November 2011 meeting, the Association membership voted unanimously to approve these guidelines and policy.

A key element of this policy is that it shifts the reliance that outdoor warning systems will provide advance warning of dangerous weather conditions. We know through research that due to the unpredictable nature of weather systems that advance warning is not always possible.

A second key to the success of this new policy is public education.

We want to thank-you and your staff for facilitating this discussion. This policy will serve to better prepare the public when faced with dangerous weather conditions and ultimately may save lives.

We look forward to maintaining a partnership with your organization as we work together in improving public safety and emergency response.

Sincerely,

Bradley Bloom  
President  
DuPage County Chiefs of Police Association

c/o Elmhurst Police Department • 125 E. First Street • Elmhurst, IL 60126



# DuPage County Fire Chiefs' Association

January 11, 2012

Director Norman A. Sturm  
DuPage County Office of Homeland Security  
And Emergency Management  
136 N County Farm Road  
Wheaton, IL. 60187

Re: Model Weather Siren Policy

Dear Director Sturm:

Yesterday the Executive Board of Directors of the DuPage County Fire Chief's Association (DPCFCA) met and discussed the County's model weather siren policy. It was the decision of the DPCFCA Executive Board to endorse the use of this model policy throughout DuPage County.

I hope that the Association's endorsement will assist your office in the implementation of this model policy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory C. Berk".

Gregory C. Berk, President  
Fire Chief Wheaton IL

Cc Executive Board Members

President Gregory Berk, Chief Wheaton Fire Department 1 Fapp Circle Wheaton, IL 60187 630-260-2175



# Community Resource Information System Training

# (C.R.I.S.)

Dupage County's searchable database for human service needs

## HOSTS

Dupage County  
Village of Downers Grove

## WHO

Downers Grove Non-Profits who would like to increase the community's access to information about their programs and services.

## WHAT

Training on how to register your organizations with the County's Community Resource Information (C.R.I.S.) searchable database.

## WHEN

Two training options are scheduled:  
- Friday, March 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
- Wednesday, March 21 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

## WHERE

The Downers Grove Public Libraries Computer Lab

## COST

**FREE!**

**Please RSVP by Wednesday, March 7 to: Mary Van Milligen at [mvanmilligen@downers.us](mailto:mvanmilligen@downers.us) or 630-434-5652.**

