

Remembering the Good Friday Tornado: Advance Warning Saves Lives

On the evening of Good Friday, April 22, 2011, the St. Louis Area could have been devastated. Two tornadic super cells crossed into the Region and spawned a tornado that quickly reached a maximum intensity of EF4 on the Enhanced Fujita Scale. This tornado is the most powerful storm to impact the Region since 1967. Entire neighborhoods were leveled. Planes were moved around like pieces on a chess board. **However, no deaths or even serious injuries occurred.** Residents attribute this fact to the early warnings provided by the National Weather Service. "The 34-minute warning saved countless lives," according to the Missouri Governor Jay Nixon.

Advance Warning Saves Lives

Depending on where you live, work, go to school, or your physical abilities, you might not be able to hear an outdoor tornado siren. Therefore, everyone should set up at least one type of tornado notification on their cellphone, radio, television, and / or computer. When choosing a notification system, consider your own unique needs. For example, people who are blind or have low vision may choose to use a text message alert with an audio component, like a weather radio. People who are deaf or hard of hearing may not be able to depend on audio alerts, outdoor sirens or weather radios, and may need to rely on written warnings, such as the American Red Cross's Tornado App, <http://www.redcross.org/mobile-apps/tornado-app>.



Voice / Text Message Alerts – Many organizations offer text messaging warnings that can be sent to your mobile device when you may be in harm's way.



Weather Radios – All-weather radios broadcast National Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts, and other hazard information 24 hours a day, as well as post-event information for all types of hazards.



Television Broadcasts – When potentially severe weather is in an area, local television stations will break into regularly scheduled programs to inform you of the danger. These broadcasts often include a text warning as well.



Email Alerts - Many organizations offer email warnings that can be sent to your computer when you may be in harm's way.

Learn more about other local emergency notifications and other information regarding tornado preparedness at <http://allreadystl.com/informed.html> or <http://www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster/tornado>.