

Severe Weather Safety

At Home

Go to the basement or an interior room on the lowest level of the building. Get under a sturdy piece of furniture.

At Work or School

Go to a predesignated shelter area. Stay away from auditoriums and gymnasiums, as well as windows.

In Mobile Homes

Seek shelter in a more substantial structure. If it is not available, lie low in a ditch or other low-lying area.

In Shopping Malls

Take cover away from the center mall area and away from windows. Get under something sturdy. Do not try to escape in your car!

Outdoors or in Automobiles

Seek indoor shelter. If it is not available, lie low in a nearby ditch, protecting your head.

Don't Forget

Take a portable radio with you to your shelter area for updated information on the storm and to learn when it is "all clear." Also take a flashlight.

Before the Warning

Take heed when weather watches are issued and when local radio, television or weather radio broadcasters alert you to the possibility of severe weather later in the day. Think about what actions you may need to take later.

Safe Areas

It is a good idea to locate a safe area in your home before a tornado warning is issued; then all family members will know where to go in an emergency without delay.

Buy a Weather Alert Radio

An excellent investment is a tone-activated weather alert radio. These small units, often with battery backup power, will alert you, much like a pager, of local severe weather conditions. These radios are activated directly from the National Weather Service office, providing the most accurate and timely severe weather information available. These radios are available at most consumer electronics outlets and are generally reasonably priced.

Visit www.stlskywarn.org for more information

Police Services

Resources	
Emergency	911
Non-Emergency	636-529-8210
TTY Hearing Impaired	636-529-8220 or 911
Precincts	
North County	314-615-4297
Central County	314-615-0111
Affton-Southwest	314-638-5550
South County	314-615-0162
City of Fenton	636-349-8120
City of Wildwood	636-458-9194
West County	636-225-0425
City of Jennings	314-385-4672



The St. Louis County Police Department is interested in citizen's opinions about our agency and its employees. Please visit the website below and take our survey.

www.stlouiscountypolice.com/citizen-resources/citizen-satisfaction-survey/



stlouiscountypolice.com

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SKYWARN Program



St. Louis County Police Department
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St. Louis, Missouri 63105

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St. Louis County Police SKYWARN Program

Over 2,000 trained weather observers make up the National Weather Service SKYWARN Program. They are young and old, from all walks of life, and from diverse backgrounds. They have one thing in common – a desire to help their neighbors by reporting severe weather in a prompt and accurate manner. These reports are collected by the control operators at the County Emergency Operations Center and relayed to the forecasters at the National Weather Service for their study and action. These reports, supplemented by Doppler radar and other forms of weather data, assist the National Weather Service in issuing timely and accurate severe weather warnings that may help save lives. The SKYWARN Program is another service of the St. Louis County Police Department’s Office of Emergency Management, which serves the St. Louis County region.

Can I Help?

Yes. There are never enough “eyes and ears.” There are no special qualifications other than a desire to help. You do not have to go to any special locations or be “on duty” for any specific periods. Your “watch” begins when severe weather is in the area, whether at home, work, school or in your car. Special training is required and provided by St. Louis County. There is never a charge to participate in the program or for training.

Our Training Program Taking the Area “By Storm”

You, too, can be a member of SKYWARN. The National Weather Service offers several training courses. The courses are designed to assist the weather observer in correctly reporting observations. Participants are taught when, how, and where to make their reports. The class is supplemented by literature and reporting information and, following the class, participants are issued “spotter numbers.” All training is supplied free of charge and classes are offered more than once.

This is training that may save your life! Visit the National Weather Service website for more information:
<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/lxx/?n=schedule>.

How I Do Report Severe Weather

Most SKYWARN weather spotters report by mobile or home phone. Specific reporting instructions and numbers are provided in training classes. While it is not required to be a weather observer, a large number of spotters report by two-way radio. Two-way radio users can report directly from their vehicles or portable handheld radios, if so equipped. Many of these radio users are amateur radio (HAM) operators. SKYWARN training is necessary for accurate reporting.

Races Amateur Program

The amateur radio component of the County Police SKYWARN Program is affiliated with the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES). RACES means amateur radio operating in emergency situations under the auspices of local government, the St. Louis County Police Office of Emergency Management. Amateur operators completing the training program become registered in the RACES Program and are also available for many other emergency service and assistance functions as needed in St. Louis County. This portion of the County SKYWARN Program has been in operation since 1955 and has gained the recognition and support of many in the St. Louis metropolitan area. Amateur radio operators in this program make their severe weather reports on the 147.360 MHz amateur radio repeater. If you have a scanner, listen to the network on 147.360 MHz. The amateur station at the County Emergency Operations Center is identified on this channel as WBAAF.

Other Radio Services

Other radio-oriented components of the County SKYWARN Program include Civil Air Patrol, General Mobile Radio Services (GMRS), St. Louis Area Chapter of the American Red Cross and selected area public safety radio frequencies.

Severe Weather Facts

- An average of 38 tornadoes develop in Missouri annually.
- Tornadoes are most frequent in the Midwest.
- Tornadoes occur most often in the late afternoon or evening and in the spring but can occur at any time of the day and in any season.
- Wind speeds in a tornado may exceed 200 miles per hour.
- An average of 100,000 thunderstorms occur each year in the United States. About 1,200 tornadoes develop from these storms.
- More fatalities have occurred in St. Louis from tornadoes than any other U.S. city.

Know the Difference

TORNADO WATCH - Conditions are right for tornado development, but none have been sighted. A “watch” is usually issued for a six-hour period.

TORNADO WARNING - SKYWARN spotters and/or Doppler radar have indicated a tornado or funnel cloud.

Take Shelter Immediately!