

# O'Fallon Police

Neighborhood Watch Newsletter – April 2020



Monday night we had the pleasure of swearing in O'Fallon's newest Police Officer, **Vance Wilhelm**. Officer Wilhelm comes to us with 2 years of experience as a South Roxana Police Officer.

He will start field training immediately. We are excited to have him join our team!

In keeping with the Governor's Executive Order, only seven people were in attendance and social distancing was in effect.



Chief Van Hook & Officer Wilhelm

## OPD Lateral Entry Program

The O'Fallon Police Department recognizes the benefit of hiring experienced Officers. If you or someone you know is a current Police Officer interested in joining the best department in the Metro East, visit [wearthebadge.com](http://wearthebadge.com) for more information and sign up to be notified of hiring opportunities!



Officer Wilhelm & Commissioner Battoe



Capt. Brueggeman, Pastor Lewis, & Chief Van Hook

## In Case You Missed It

First United Methodist Church Pastor and OPD Chaplain **Brad Lewis** organized a campaign to help local businesses and essential workers during the "stay at home" order.

"O-Town Proud" shirts can be purchased at [www.otownproud.com](http://www.otownproud.com)

The shirts are designed and printed locally and the proceeds will be used to purchase gift cards from local businesses. The gift cards will then be given to our community's healthcare workers and first responders.

KMOV Channel 4 did a story about this, which can be viewed on their website: [www.kmov.com](http://www.kmov.com)



SCREENPRINT



SCREENPRINT

## SEVERE WEATHER SEASON

Springtime means warmer weather and increased risks of tornadoes, thunderstorms, flooding, and hail. The next two pages contain several statistics as well as links to a wealth of information related to severe weather and other disaster preparedness .

TORNADO	HAIL	LIGHTNING	WIND	FLOODING
				
<b>ACTION</b> Take shelter immediately in a sturdy structure	<b>ACTION</b> Move indoors away from windows	<b>ACTION</b> Move indoors if you hear thunder	<b>ACTION</b> Move indoors away from windows	<b>ACTION</b> Avoid rising creeks and water-covered roads

  
*Understanding*  
**SEVERE WEATHER HAZARDS**

James Hobbs

The City of O'Fallon uses an Emergency Alerting System composed of nine (9) sirens strategically located throughout the City. The system is designed to alert residents and visitors of potentially severe weather, including tornado warnings and severe storms with high winds.

O'Fallon's emergency alert sirens will be activated during a **tornado warning** or when it has been confirmed that **damaging force winds with a sustained speed of 65+ mph** will impact the City of O'Fallon.

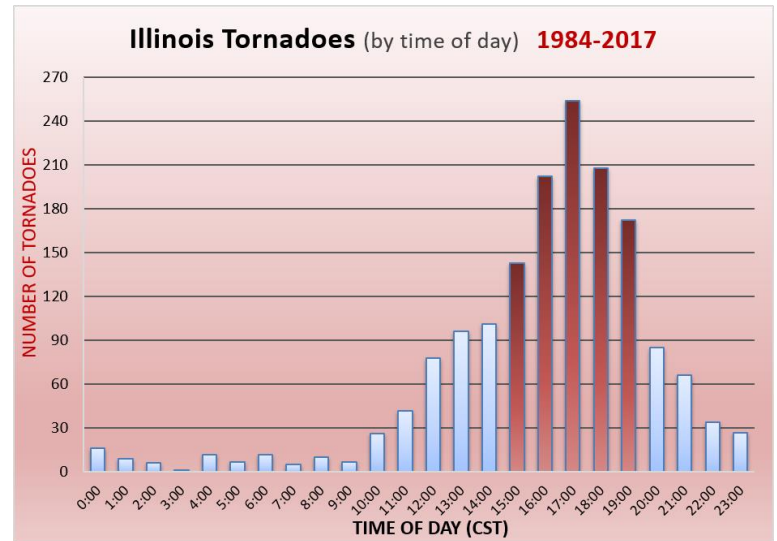
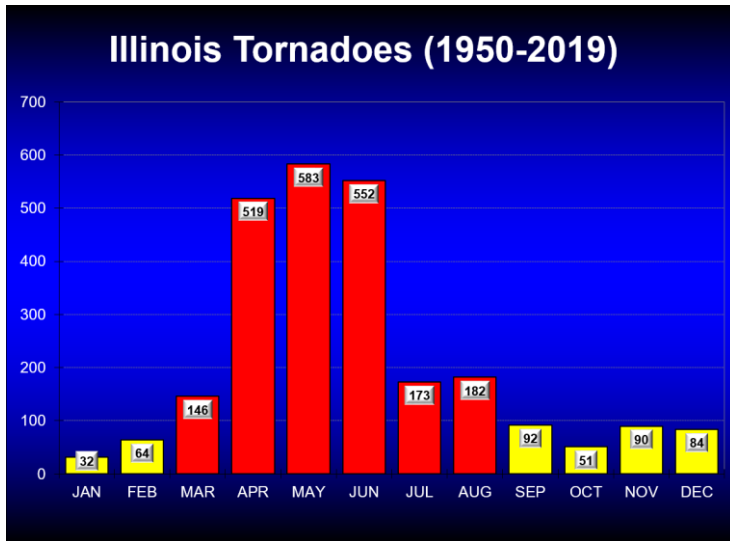
As part of a regional program, O'Fallon's sirens are tested the first Tuesday of every month at 10 a.m.



In addition to the storm sirens, the City of O'Fallon added two **lightning detection systems** in 2018 at the O'Fallon Family Sports Park and Community Park. The lightning detection systems will set off a **siren and strobe light** when lightning is in the area. When lightning is nearby, a siren will sound for 15 seconds as an initial warning and a strobe light will begin to flash. When the siren goes off, park users should move to a safe and covered area. A 20-minute countdown clock will begin once the last lightning strike is detected. With each detected lightning strike, the countdown clock restarts. After 20 minutes with no detected lightning strikes, the strobe light will stop and three, five-second siren blasts will signify the area is clear of lightning strikes.

The lightning detection system is programmed to not activate sirens or strobe lights during nighttime hours. No sirens or strobe lights will be activated typically between 10:30 p.m. and 7:45 a.m.

While we should always be prepared for severe weather, the following two graphs display the most common times of year and times of day of Illinois tornadoes, courtesy of the [National Weather Service \(weather.gov\)](http://www.weather.gov).



## What can you do to be prepared?

1. **STAY INFORMED.** This can be done by monitoring a weather alert radio, local radio & TV broadcasts, NWS web pages, or various applications on computers and smart phones.

DON'T just rely on one method - especially storm sirens - which are NOT designed to be heard indoors by everyone.

2. **HAVE AN EMERGENCY PLAN.** Do this for your home, business, schools and when you are traveling. Designate places to go to seek safe shelter from a tornado or severe thunderstorm. Pick two places to meet in case you are separated from your family or co-workers.

While traveling or when away from home, know the names of the locations you are visiting - especially county and city names.

3. **PREPARE YOURSELF & YOUR HOME FOR AN EMERGENCY.** Learn how to use a fire extinguisher, how to administer CPR, and how to turn off the electricity, gas and water supplies in your home.

Inspect your home for potential hazards such as weakened trees or limbs, cracked windows or worn roofing.

4. **HAVE AN EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT.** Some storms produce power outages that will last for several days. Having the following items will help you cope with the disaster:

- Bottled water
- Non-perishable food
- Flashlights & extra batteries
- Extra clothing & blankets
- An extra set of keys & cash
- Medications & a first aid kit
- Personal hygiene items
- Pet supplies
- A weather alert radio or portable AM/FM radio

\* Click [HERE](#) for a printable Disaster Kit brochure, courtesy of the [American Red Cross](#) and the [Illinois Terrorism Task Force](#):

[https://www.weather.gov/media/ilx/Preparedness/IHS\\_Disaster\\_Kit.pdf](https://www.weather.gov/media/ilx/Preparedness/IHS_Disaster_Kit.pdf)

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



MAKE A PLAN



BUILD A KIT



BE INFORMED



# COVID-19 Information

State of Illinois  
Illinois Department of Public Health

## COVID-19 Social Distancing: What does it mean?

Social distancing is the practice of reducing close contact between people to slow the spread of infections or diseases. Social distancing measures include limiting groups of people coming together, closing buildings or canceling events.

AVOID	USE CAUTION	SAFE TO DO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group Gatherings</li> <li>• Sleep Overs</li> <li>• Playdates</li> <li>• Concerts</li> <li>• Theater Outings</li> <li>• Church Services</li> <li>• Athletic Events</li> <li>• Crowded Retail Stores</li> <li>• Malls</li> <li>• Workouts in Gyms</li> <li>• Visitors in Your Home</li> <li>• Non-essential Workers in Your Home</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mass Transit Systems</li> <li>• Visiting a Grocery Store</li> <li>• Getting Take Out</li> <li>• Picking Up Medications</li> <li>• Playing Tennis in a Park</li> <li>• Visiting the Library</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take a Walk</li> <li>• Go for a Hike</li> <li>• Yard Work</li> <li>• Playing in Your Yard</li> <li>• Cleaning Out a Closet</li> <li>• Reading a Good Book</li> <li>• Listening to Music</li> <li>• Cooking a Meal</li> <li>• Family Game Night</li> <li>• Going for a Drive</li> <li>• Stream a Favorite Show</li> <li>• Check on a Friend</li> <li>• Check on Elderly Neighbor</li> </ul>




Questions about COVID-19?  
Call 1-800-889-3931 or email [dph.sick@illinois.gov](mailto:dph.sick@illinois.gov)  
Illinois Department of Public Health - [www.dph.illinois.gov](http://www.dph.illinois.gov)  
Printed by Authority of the State of Illinois • 3/16/20 I00120-643

coronavirus.illinois.gov

State of Illinois  
IDPH

## What is a Stay at Home Order?



Outdoor activities—walking, hiking, running. Always stay 6 ft apart from others



Working in essential businesses or organizations



Obtaining emergency services, visiting a health care professional, or picking up medical supplies

**YOU MAY LEAVE YOUR HOME ONLY FOR THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:**



Getting supplies and services such as groceries, gasoline, or takeout



Caring for others—traveling to help an elderly person or loved one



If you do leave your house, ALWAYS stay 6 ft apart from others



One of O'Fallon's greatest assets is the excellent parks system. But, we must remind everyone of the **IMPORTANCE of social distancing.**

The City of O'Fallon hopes to be able to keep parks open for walkers/joggers who socially distance--BUT gatherings of people and kids who are playing basketball, soccer, baseball or using pavilions can further the spread and increase closures.

Effective, March 31, 2020 all basketball courts, pavilions, playgrounds, restrooms, batting cages, the skatepark, Sports Park baseball fields, and Blazier field (Community Park field #1) will be closed. O'Fallon parks will remain open, but **proper social distancing must be maintained at all times.**

We have **cancel**ed our April Monthly Prescription Drug Take Back, which is always held on the first Saturday of every month. In addition, the DEA has **postponed** their National Take Back event scheduled for 4/25/20.

We plan to resume this program once it is safe to do so.

