

O'Fallon Police

Neighborhood Watch Newsletter – March 2021



OPD Welcomes New Officer

Please join us in welcoming the O'Fallon Police Department's newest officer, **Officer Jectoffer Topacio**. Officer Topacio took the oath of office, which was administered by Commissioner Scott Battoe, on February 16, 2021. Officer Topacio previously worked for the Escambia County Sheriff's Office in Pensacola Florida, for about the last four years.

Officer Topacio recently moved to the area after his family received orders from the US Air Force and were relocated to Scott Air Force Base. Officer Topacio is also a member of the U.S. Army Reserves. Officer Topacio is currently in OPD's field training program. Welcome Officer Topacio!



On February 27, several members of the [OPD Special Olympics Polar Plunge team](#) were dunked into icy water in support of our favorite athletes. Our team raised **over \$15,000** and athletes Tony & Jim along with some of our top donors did the honors of dunking us!

Special Thanks to Gateway Rental in Belleville for providing free use of their dunk tank!

www.gatewayrental.net/



TEAM OPD
Over \$15,000
for Special
Olympics!



Recycling Event at O'Fallon City Hall on March 6 from 9 AM to 12 PM

<https://www.facebook.com/events/650582058975167>

SCRAP METAL & ELECTRONICS RECYCLE DRIVE



CITY HALL
255 S. Lincoln Ave

MAR 6TH 9-12
am pm

Tube TV/Monitor Disposal Fee [\$20-\$40]

- | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Vehicles | Appliances | Office Equip. | Phones |
| Bicycles | Furnaces | Cabinets/Desk | Cameras |
| Scooters | Water Heaters | Shredders | Stereo Eq. |
| Go-Karts | Refrigerators | Wall Dividers | Laptops |
| ATVs | Stove Tops | Office Chairs | Computers |
| Motor Toys | Toaster Ovens | Printers | Copy Machines |
| Mowers | Microwaves | Scanners | Flat-Screen TVs |
| Trimmers | Dishwasher | Shelves | CRT Television(\$) |
| BBQ Grills | Vacuums | Furnishings | Video Recorders |
| Industrial Machines | | | |

**NOT ACCEPTED: PAPER - GLASS - PLASTIC - CARDBOARD
TIRES - CONCRETE - LIGHT BULBS - HAZARDOUS WASTE**

SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS WEEK IN ILLINOIS

MARCH 1 - 5, 2021

The following severe weather safety tips are courtesy of the National Weather Service. For more tips, visit <https://www.weather.gov/ilx/severe-prep>

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



Understanding
SEVERE WEATHER HAZARDS

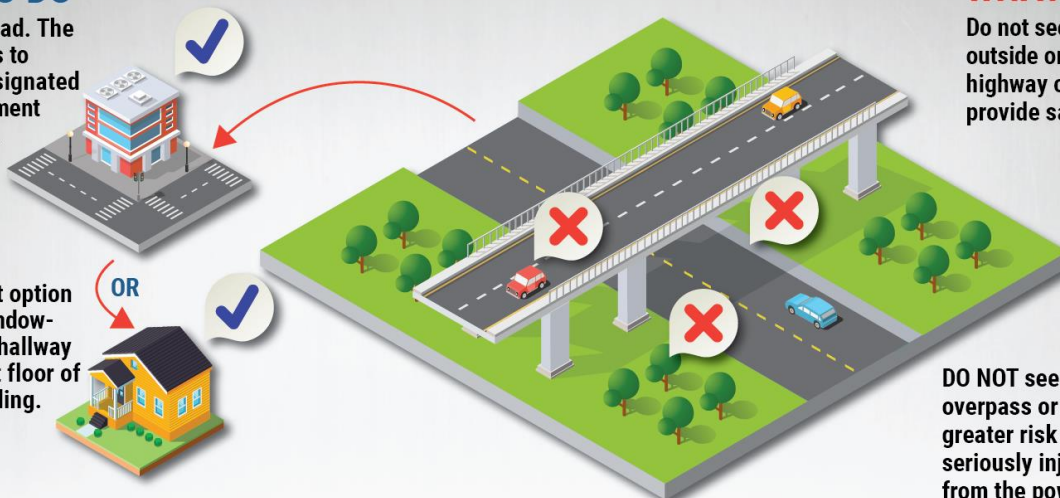
James Hobbs

TORNADOES AND ROAD SAFETY

WHAT TO DO

Get off the road. The best option is to drive to a designated shelter, basement or safe room.

The next best option is a small, windowless room or hallway on the lowest floor of a sturdy building.



WHAT NOT TO DO

Do not seek refuge in a vehicle, outside or under an overpass. A highway overpass does not provide safety from a tornado.

DO NOT seek shelter under an overpass or a tree. This puts you at greater risk of being killed or seriously injured by flying debris from the powerful tornadic winds.



"THIS IS A PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS SITUATION..."

Have you ever noticed the wording "THIS IS A PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS SITUATION" in some of the severe weather watches issued by the NWS Storm Prediction Center?



This wording is used in **Tornado Watches** for rare situations when long-lived and intense tornadoes are likely.

This enhanced wording may also accompany **Severe Thunderstorm Watches** for widespread and exceptionally intense straight-line wind events.

BE PREPARED:



Review your severe weather safety procedures
Know the safest place to seek refuge ahead of time
Consider canceling or postponing outdoor activities
Have multiple ways to receive a warning
Inform others of the heightened risk



Tornado Safety



Before a Tornado

- Make sure all family members know the tornado safe location in your home
- Store an emergency kit in your safe location
- Identify where to go if you are at work or school
- Make a family communications plan



Building a Weather-Ready Nation

NWS Lincoln, IL
www.weather.gov/Lincoln

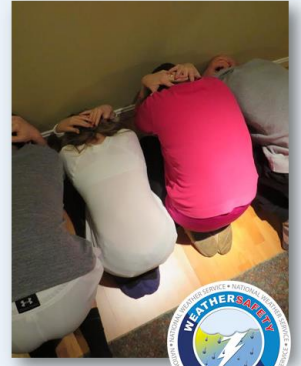


Tornado Safety



During a Tornado

- Go to a safe location away from windows on the lowest level of a sturdy building
- If you are caught outside, get in a car, buckle up, and try to drive to the closest sturdy shelter. NEVER seek shelter under a bridge, and only lie flat in a ditch as a last resort.
- Go to a secure storm shelter if you are in a mobile home



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Tornado Safety



Preparing your pets

- Get your pets ready at the first sign of an approaching storm
- Put your dog on a leash and your cat in a carrier
- Move all pets to the shelter well ahead of the storm
- Include pet food and medicines in your emergency kit



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WFO Lincoln, IL
www.weather.gov/Lincoln



Tornado Safety



After a Tornado

- Beware of downed power lines, broken gas lines, and sharp/dangerous debris
- Avoid damaged areas
- Stay off the roads to allow rescue workers clear passage
- Follow instructions from local officials



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www.weather.gov/Lincoln



[Make A Difference With O'Fallon Fire Rescue](#)

Become a Volunteer Firefighter. O'Fallon Fire Rescue is looking to fill our ranks with local citizens who have a passion to serve!

<https://ofallonfire.com/recruitment/>



The [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration \(NHTSA\)](#) is kicking off their second annual **Vehicle Safety Recalls Week** on March 8. The focus: heightened awareness of the importance of checking for recalls twice a year and getting a recall repaired immediately — **for free**.

Vehicle Safety Recalls Week coincides with the week leading up to daylight saving time. Traditionally, this day has been a cue to check smoke detector batteries as you change your clocks. You should also make it a habit to check for vehicle safety recalls when daylight saving time begins and ends.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.nhtsa.gov/recalls/vehicle-safety-recalls-week>

FREE RECALL CHECKS

Locate your Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), which is on the lower left of your car's windshield.



NHTSA

Visit [NHTSA.gov](https://www.nhtsa.gov) and type in your 17-character VIN.

Schedule an appointment with your local dealer and get any outstanding recalls fixed for free.

REMINDER! OPD hosts a **Drug Take Back Event** the first Saturday of every month in the lobby from 11AM – 1 PM.

Safely disposing of medications keeps the medication out of our water supply and keeps addictive and dangerous medicine from falling into the wrong hands

***We cannot take any needles, inhalers or liquids**