

By Chief Bill Reed

After the recent rash of storms, I am recommending several survival tips. Plenty of flashlights strategically located throughout the home are beneficial. Candles are ok, but present a fire safety problem if knocked over or left unattended, if you leave the home temporarily. Avoid leaving the home in the event of serious storms unless to seek shelter with friends and relatives who have a basement if you do not. Try to prepare in advance with weather alert radios or reports on the TV. Stay away from all downed wires, even if you are certain it is telephone or cable TV. Any type of wire may be in contact with live electrical wires. Avoid walking on roads with downed wires as live wires can energize wet roads and electrocute persons not even contacting the wire. Do not leave vehicles that have wires across them; stay inside the vehicle until help arrives! Not everyone has generators, but if you do get them out prior to the arrival of an impending storm. Cell phones are great tools during storms, keep them handy and remember most 911 centers and dispatch centers have back up generators. Utility companies are extremely busy during a storm or their arrival may be delayed based on priorities, such as serving health care facilities, nursing homes and other essential services. If there is a life-safety issue please contact your local emergency forces immediately. Outages that are not life-threatening should be reported directly to the Utilities Companies not to 911 centers. Non-essential calls divert attention from more serious life threatening issues. Preparedness is the key to surviving serious thunderstorms and possible tornados.

Middlefield Fire and Police and Geauga County Sheriff's Offices work under the same Tornado Notification Policy. When Public Safety officials deem it necessary (tornado warning), the tornado siren will be sounded once and once only for notification of people outside to seek shelter in a pre-determined safe location. We will not sound an All Clear because it can be mistaken for the initial siren confusing the public also All Clears can often not be heard by persons sheltered indoors. All Clears should be obtained from the NWS on weather alert radios (battery powered) or cell phones, tablets or television weather updates providing there has been no loss of power. Use the following link from the Storm Prediction Center of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) for Tornado Safety Tips. <http://www.spc.noaa.gov/faq/tornado/safety.html>

Nice weather is arriving and school will be out shortly. Watch for young ones, pedestrians, bicycles, skateboards and scooters!

Remember the detector program for Middlefield Village. Middlefield Township and Huntsburg Township residents may call 440-632-1907 to get on the installation list for smoke and CO detectors.

We are happy to serve you. Stay safe!