



# DuPage Public Safety Communications

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## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Important Information Regarding Lightning Detections Systems - July 2008

Many DU-COMM Member Municipalities have installed a lightning prediction system that consists of sensors measuring electrostatic charges at ground level and in the atmosphere. These electrostatic charges, invisible to the naked eye, build prior to lightning occurrences. When conditions indicate that a lightning occurrence is probable, a signal is sent to horn and strobe devices located at many parks or near large school fields. It is important to understand that these lightning detection systems are activated automatically, and differ from severe weather sirens that DU-COMM activates for our Member Municipalities during severe weather. Please note the difference between the lightning detection systems and severe weather sirens.

The following procedures are to be followed when potentially dangerous weather exists:

#### Warning Signal

A Warning Signal (one long 15-second horn blast) will sound and strobe lights will activate when a potentially dangerous weather situation is approaching.

#### Procedures

All outdoor park activities should end immediately. It is recommended that park patrons seek shelter in their cars or a building. Patrons should avoid areas that are higher than the surrounding landscape, they should not use a tree for shelter, and they should keep away from metal objects such as bicycles, golf clubs, umbrellas, etc. All park patrons must wait until the Lightning Prediction System performs an All Clear Signal before returning to the park.

#### All Clear Signal

The All Clear Signal (three short horn blasts, two seconds apart) will sound, and the strobe lights will deactivate. After the All Clear Signal sounds and the strobe lights deactivate, park patrons may resume their activities.

#### Caution

The lightning detection systems help assess the conditions. Neither the signal nor the system is intended to guarantee that conditions are safe. If the weather is threatening and no warning signal is heard or seen, use good judgment and seek shelter. Do not wait for the warning signal to activate, as the system can malfunction.

**View this clip for an example of a Lightning Detection System:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I2rUhC9j2jU>

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