



LYONS TOWNSHIP AREA COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

304 Burlington Avenue, La Grange, IL 60525
708-352-2059 · FAX 708-352-1998
Contact: Mike O'Connor, Executive Director

Tornado Siren

La Grange, IL – August 6, 2021

On the evening of June 20, 2021, the threat of severe weather resulted in a Tornado Warning for the area from the National Weather Service (NWS). The Lyons Township Area Communications Center (LTACC) did not initiate the alert system for those communities for which LTACC controls siren activation. Those communities include Western Springs, La Grange, and La Grange Park. LTACC conducted a review to determine why the sirens did not sound. “After conducting a thorough review into this incident, LTACC has identified and addressed the cause and has taken steps to prevent its occurrence in the future,” stated Mike O’Connor, Executive Director of LTACC.

As a result of extensive consultations with member communities and to ensure that corrective actions were immediately implemented, LTACC engaged the dispatchers in a review of the policy pertaining to emergency operations for severe weather, to ensure their knowledge and understanding for siren activation. LTACC is confident that the siren activation policy will be effectively applied going forward. As an additive measure, LTACC reviewed, made improvements to, and recalibrated the Rave Alert Smart 911 System, allowing for redundant and more effective notification during a storm event.

The partnership between LTACC and its member communities exists to ensure the safety and well-being of area residents. LTACC will continue its work to ensure that residents are notified of any potentially dangerous weather situation. LTACC also encourages residents to pay close attention to alerts from smartphones, television and radio broadcasts, and weather radios, in addition to the outdoor air sirens, during severe weather events. These alerts provide a multi-system redundancy approach to severe weather warnings. Such alerts also often contain useful information that residents can use to keep their families and homes safe.

To sign up for Rave Alerts / Smart911, go to: <https://www.smart911.com>

###