

# Tornado – Err, Weather Siren

If you've read my previous blog post, then you know that I wrote a letter of complaint to my local newspaper about our town's policy change regarding the ~~tornado~~ weather siren. Our siren is now activated for any severe thunderstorm warning, a policy which I consider hazardous since we seem to now be left without any warning of actual tornadic activity. Ironically (or not, since the sirens have gone off no fewer than *eight* times this June 2010), today we got another dose of the siren. As has been usual lately, we got an average thunderstorm, nothing more than some lightning, thunder, and rain. I decided to videotape my street as the sirens were going off, with the intention of adding it to my blog to illustrate my point about writing a letter to the newspaper. At the very least, the following video will help my daughter and I – we are getting really good at doing impressions of the ~~tornado~~ weather siren – enough to drive our puppy crazy anyway. □

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# Waiting...

It's 1am and I can't sleep. Why? We are right in line for our second round of severe weather tonight. Round one was kind of fun. The two older kids were still awake, and they came downstairs panicked at the Tornado Warning that was flashing on their tv. It turned out to be for a different county, but then one was issued for our county a few minutes later. But it soon became clear that our town would be spared – a few very soft claps of thunder, and we were done. The tornado sirens blared, so we dutifully went to the basement, but before we could even get everyone down there, the sirens were off. So right before bed, I checked the radar again, and round two is headed straight for us. I've had the news on while laying in bed, and after all of the very serious reports of damage and that which is yet to come, I gave up on sleep. My husband and I came downstairs to watch the radar on the news and... wait.

I've got a comforter and some bottled water and snacks waiting by the basement door; it looks really bad. I hope I'm over-reacting, but better safe than sorry, I guess – and it's 1:30 in the morning so it's easy to panic; I'm tired. Plus, preparing for disaster keeps my mind of the feeling of impending doom from outside. The county just north of us has a Tornado Warning. It feels like a pressure cooker outside – the humidity is stifling, and the wind is picking up. So far they're saying on the news that tornadic activity is heading straight for our town, but weather is very unpredictable. But even if we don't get a tornado, they said to expect winds 80-90 mph. Did I mention we invested in an inflatable pool for the kids yesterday? ☐

I'm praying for the safety of our family and friends who are

spread all over this county and the next one over. I'm praying for our old house and for all of the tall trees around it. There are reports of heavy damage (possible tornado) in the county to the east, and we have many friends who live there – praying for everyone.

Well, this thing appears to be in our county now, and no tornado warning for us. The wind is howling, so I better go before I lose power – I have flashlights and battery radios, think we're well prepared... just difficult to decide at what point it's safer to panic the kids by waking them and taking them into the basement... always a tough decision. I've lived in the midwest all my life, but this is so much harder when you're the parent and the one who has to make the calls.

Stay safe everyone... I will leave an update on this post tomorrow, but so far, it looks good for us – the storm turned due east at the last minute...

**\*UPDATE\*** – Yes, the storm turned away from us at the last minute – a miracle. So other than being extremely tired, we are unscathed. Some friends I saw at church today are ok too, so I'll have to do some digging about the rest of the area, but I think everyone is ok! Time to catch up on that sleep...

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## Were We Off To See The Wizard Or To St. Louis?

I'm not entirely sure but after the final curtain fell, I began to wonder. While we were striking the set, the tornado siren sounded not once... not twice... but three times (a lady). We all piled into the catacombs of the Huber and enjoyed pizza, cake, cookies, and other goodies. I'm so glad the

warning did not sound until AFTER the show was over. But everything the theatre took in I believe today at least if not part of last night's take was all profit. Good for the joint venture of the Village Players and Huber Opera House. I just cannot express enough how great it was to be involved in this production in the beautiful theatre. There are stories I have heard about the building only a short 20 years ago that would not be appropriate for this blog.

I just find it amazing every time a set is taken down. All the time and hard work that went into the creation of such a beautiful picture and down in less than half that time. This was even harder because this was ONLY a three day event as opposed to the seven show run of the [WCCT](#). However, no matter the outcome, there is always something memorable to take away from every show... yes, even Grease had a few fantastic things come out of it and anyone who reads my blog KNOWS what that is.

But, once again, thank you to all involved in *Meet Me in St. Louis* to the Village Players and to the Huber Opera House. Hicksville Ohio has a wonderful venue that harkens back to an era long ago. I look forward to auditioning again.