# THE FIREHOUSE SCENE

is a publication of the Harlem-Roscoe Fire Protection District

March 2024

Fire Chief John Bergeron

Editor Sheryl Drost

# BURNING ORDINANCES

# Village of Roscoe

# **Machesney** Park

Daytime during the months of April & November from Sun up until 2100 hours

# Unincorporated Winnebago County

From April 15th to May 15th Saturdays & Sundays ONLY from 1000 hours- 1900 hours.





Happy Easter! As we transition from the cold of winter to the warmth of spring, I want to take a moment to reflect on the response your fire department for the month of February. It again was another busy month for our crews, answering a total of 289 calls for service. These include medical emergencies, motor vehicle accidents and other various incidents where our community needed assistance. Our crews acted professionally and effectively to mitigate the scene and aid those in need. Our crews are always prepared to provide top level service when called upon.

On March 10th we will "Spring Forward" one hour. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour. With that comes the reminder to replace the batteries in our Smoke and CO Detectors. Did you know that our department offers Smoke Detectors at no cost to residents of the district. If you need replacements, please reach out by calling 815-623-7867.

Training remains the cornerstone of our departments mission. Our members participate in rigorous training exercises focused on honing their skills in not only firefighting, but emergency medical and more. We also participate in joint trainings with our neighboring departments to enhance our coordination and effectiveness working as a cohesive team.

As we look ahead to the coming months, we remain committed to serving and safeguarding our community. You will see us again out in the community at various events. We will continue to enhance emergency preparedness and strengthen partnerships with other agencies and community organizations to provide the highest level of service to those we protect.

As always, if I can be of any assistance, please feel free to reach out. Also visit our Facebook page for information on your fire department.



Harlem-Roscoe Fire Station One hosted this year's Battle of the Badges Blood Drive on March 5th for Harlem-Roscoe Fire and the Roscoe Police.

We had a great turn out and were able to collect 50 units of blood, taking first place in the battle. Rockton came in next with 37 units and South Beloit with 26 units. Thank you to everyone that took time to donate!



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#### HOUSE FIRE PHOTO COURTESY OF NORTH PARK FIRE

North Park Fire was dispatched to a structure fire near the intersection of Cincinnati Drive and Langley Dr. in Machesney Park on Feb. 22nd at 8:21am. First arriving North Park unit located the fire on Lotus Lane which happens to be in HRFD's district. HRFD Firefighters as well as Rockton Fire and the other auto aid departments were already en-route so the departments just worked together to extinguish and overhaul the fire.

North Park Fire Chief Joel Hallstrom was the first in command and reported that the fire was contained to the back porch area, a portion of the garage, and attic space above the kitchen. The residents were safely outside and two pets were rescued, but sadly some cats perished in the fire. The investigation to the cause of the fire is in progress.



Engineer Joe Quast's mother, Gloria Kirchner, passed away on February 24th, 2024.

Firefighter Jacob Kruckenberg's dad, Jason Kruckenberg, passed away on February 26, 2024

Our deepest sympathies and prayers go out to Joe and Jacob and their families.

#### TRUE INSURANCE STATEMENTS

These reports were submitted when policy-holders were asked for a brief statement describing their accident.

- The other car collided with mine without giving warning of its intention.
- The guy was all over the place. I had to swerve a number of times before I hit him.
- I pulled away from the side of the road, glanced at my mother-in-law and headed over the embankment.
- I was driving my car out of the driveway in the usual manner, when it was struck by the other car in the same place it had been struck several times before.
- I was on my way to the doctor's with rear-end trouble when my universal joint gave way, causing me to have an accident.
- As I approached the intersection, a stop sign suddenly appeared in a place where no stop sign had ever appeared before. I was unable to stop in time to avoid the accident.
- The telephone pole was approaching fast. I was attempting to swerve out of its path when it struck my front end.
- To avoid hitting the bumper of the car in front, I struck the pedestrian.
- My car was legally parked as it backed into the other vehicle.
- An invisible car came out of nowhere, struck my vehicle and vanished.
- When I saw I could not avoid a collision, I stepped on the gas and crashed into the other car.
- The pedestrian had no idea which direction to go, so I ran him over.
- Coming home, I drove into the wrong house and collided with a tree I don't have. The indirect cause of this accident was a little guy in a small car with a big mouth.



CPR BY LT. DYLAN LACKEY

Dear Harlem-Roscoe Fire Protection District Residents,

In the heart of our community, the well-being and safety of

each individual is a shared responsibility. Today, we emphasize an often overlooked aspect of public health and safety: Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training. The ability to perform CPR during cardiac emergencies is a vital skill that each of us can learn to potentially save the lives of our loved ones or even a stranger.

#### \*\*Why CPR Matters\*\*

Cardiac arrests are more common than many realize, and they often occur outside of hospital settings, where immediate professional medical help is not readily available. Statistics reveal that immediate CPR can double or even triple a person's chance of survival following cardiac arrest. This emphasizes not only the importance of CPR knowledge among healthcare professionals but also within our community at large.

#### \*\*Enhancing First Response with Community CPR Training\*\*

When every second counts, bystanders equipped with CPR skills become the front line defense against the fatal consequences of cardiac arrest. By ensuring that more residents are certified in CPR, we not only enhance the capability of our community to respond to emergencies but also support the Harlem-Roscoe Fire Protection District's efforts to save lives. The initial minutes following a cardiac arrest are crucial, and immediate action can be the difference between life and death.

#### \*\*A Call to Action: Get Certified\*\*

We encourage each member of our community to get CPR certified. HRFD offers CPR training sessions that are both informative and accessible. Participating in these sessions not only prepares you to act confidently

in a crisis but also fosters a safer and more resilient community. Together, we can build a network of first responders who are ready to support each other in times of need.

### \*\*Conclusion\*\*

Let's come together to create a community where everyone is equipped to save a life. Your decision to learn CPR can turn you into a hero on the worst day of someone's life. We invite you to take this step towards becoming CPR certified and join us in our mission to safeguard the health and safety of our beloved community.

For information on local CPR certification courses, please contact the Harlem-Roscoe Fire Protection District or visit our website. Together, we can make a difference.

# FIRST AID & CPR TRAINING

Classes are held the 4th Saturday of every month!

Where: HRFD Fire Station #3 @ 13974 Willowbrook Rd.

Time: Starts at 8am

Cost: \$25 - CPR/AED \$25 - First Aid Only

**Payment: Cash or Check** 

Register: Call 815-623-7867 Monday - Friday 8-4:30pm



### NEW STRYKER EMS POWERLOAD COT SYSTEM BY DIV CHIEF JEFF GRANT

As technology continues to evolve, so too does the field of emergency medical services (EMS). Among the latest advancements in patient transport technology is the Stryker Power-Load Cot System - a game-changer in ensuring smoother, safer, and more efficient patient transfers for both EMS providers and patients alike.

#### What is the Stryker Power-Load Cot System?

The Stryker Power-Load Cot System is an innovative solution designed to streamline the process of loading and unloading patients into ambulances. At its core is a powered loading system integrated directly into the ambulance, along with a specially designed stretcher equipped with a powered loading feature.



#### **How Does It Work?**

When a patient needs to be transported, EMS providers can easily slide the stretcher into the ambulance using the powerassisted loading system. With the push of a button, the system smoothly lifts and secures the stretcher into place, reducing the physical strain on EMS personnel and minimizing the risk of injury to both providers and patients.

#### Key Benefits:

- Enhanced Safety: The Power-Load Cot System reduces the risk of musculoskeletal injuries among EMS providers by automating the lifting and loading process, eliminating the need for manual lifting and reducing the risk of accidents during transport. Back injuries are the number one cause of musculoskeletal injuries to Firefighters and EMS personnel. The injuries not only make a significant impact on the individual and department initially but also in the future for years to come.
- Efficiency and Speed: With its quick and seamless loading capabilities, the system helps reduce turnaround times between emergency calls, enabling EMS crews to respond to emergencies more rapidly and efficiently.
- Improved Patient Care: Patients experience smoother and more comfortable transfers, as the system minimizes jostling and movement during loading and unloading. This is particularly beneficial for patients with spinal injuries or those in critical condition.
- Versatility and Adaptability: The Power-Load Cot System is compatible with a wide range of ambulance models and stretcher configurations, making it a versatile solution for EMS agencies of all sizes and needs.
- Training and Support: Stryker provides comprehensive training and support to EMS agencies adopting the Power-Load Cot System, ensuring that providers are proficient in its operation and maximizing its benefits.

For any new piece of equipment that Harlem Roscoe purchases, all personnel are required to complete mandated in-service training before the equipment is put into service. In an industry where every second counts and patient safety is paramount, the Stryker Power-Load Cot System sets a new standard for excellence in patient transport. By leveraging cutting-edge technology and innovative design, this system not only enhances the safety and well-being of both EMS providers and patients but also represents a significant step forward in the evolution of emergency medical services.





### PREVENTION IS THE KEY! BY CRR JEN ANDERSON

All of us work hard to help children prepare for a bright and challenging future. Teaching students how to prevent fires and how to respond properly in a fire situation are skills your students

will remember and practice throughout their lives.

The National Fire Protection Association created the "Learn Not to Burn" program to teach students from Pre-School thru 2nd grade to recognize and avoid fire risks, helping them lead fuller and more productive lives, and reaching beyond the classroom to families in this process.

Learn Not to Burn is a comprehensive fire safety curriculum available on nfpa.org for use in schools. Developed by the National Fire Protection Association, Learn Not to Burn Level 1 is based on the field-tested results of the original Learn Not to Burn program. It presents six fire safety messages using classroom lessons, activities and home connections.

This year I am fortunate to teach this program to the Pre-K thru 1st graders at Ledgewood Elementary School in the Kinnikinnick School District. I see the students at Ledgewood once a month, alternating grades each month. In the month of February, I saw all of the 1st grade classes. I am in each classroom for 30 minutes. The lesson in February was "How to Report an Emergency". The lesson included a flash card game of clues and the students had to tell me whether or not it was an emergency. They did this by a "thumbs up" that it is an emergency or "thumbs down" no it is not an emergency. Some of the clues were silly but that was part of learning what is and what is not an emergency. I try to always conclude our time together by reading the kid's a story that has ties to the fire service. I have to admit, this is one of my favorite parts of my job!



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THERE ARE NO



DAVE GRANLUNDG www

#### **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

#### The Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security has these recommendations for preparedness:

- Keep all important records and documents in a secure waterproof container.
- Make an inventory of possessions using lists and photos/videos.
- Insure your property and possessions.
- Know how to shut off electricity, gas, and water.
- Compile an emergency kit and "go bag" to help your family for at least three days during extended power outages or evacuations.
- In case power is out, make sure flashlights with fresh batteries are ready.
- Generators should only be run outside, never indoors or in enclosed spaces.

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#### BY DC KEVIN BRIGGS

Lithium-ion batteries are increasingly found in devices and

systems that the public and first responders use or interact with daily. While these batteries provide an effective and efficient source of power, the likelihood of them overheating, catching on fire, and even leading to explosions increases when they are damaged or improperly used, charged, or stored.

**NEVER** charge a battery or device under your pillow, on your bed, or near a couch!

**NEVER** overcharge or leave battery charging overnight!

**NEVER** block your primary way in or out of a room/space!

**NEVER** place batteries in Trash or Recycling bins!



#### Why are lithium-ion batteries flammable?

Lithium-ion batteries store a lot of energy in a small amount of space. When that energy is released in an uncontrolled manner, it generates heat, which can turn certain internal battery components into flammable and toxic gases.

#### How do fires from lithium-ion batteries start?

Lithium-ion battery fires happen for a variety of reasons, such as physical damage (e.g., the battery is penetrated or crushed or exposed to water), electrical damage (e.g., overcharging or using charging equipment not designed for the battery), exposure to extreme temperatures, and product defects.

# What are some unique dangers of lithium-ion battery

**fires?** Heat, smoke, the release of toxic gasses, and the potential for explosions are the dangers associated with lithium-ion battery fires.

#### What are some safety tips for buying, charging, storing, and using lithium-ion batteries in devices like laptops, phones, tools, and more?

- Purchase batteries that are only listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory and labeled accordingly.
- Stop charging a battery once it is full.
- Use charging equipment that is only compatible with your device. To be safe, use only the charging equipment that is supplied with your device.
- Stop using your device if the battery shows signs of damage, such as an unusual odor, excessive heat, popping sounds, swelling, or change in color.
- Have all repairs performed by a qualified professional.

# Where is the safest place to charge batteries in e-bikes and electric vehicles?

When it comes to e-bikes, e-scooters, and electric vehicles, the safest place to charge these devices is outdoors away from any structure or enclosure and not in direct sunlight. Do not charge a battery when either the charger or the battery is damaged. Do not store batteries in extremely hot or cold locations or in an area that blocks the only exit out of a room. And do not attempt to modify the battery or charger.

Once the batteries catch fire and water is applied to them, does it make the fire worse because lithium in the presence of water creates combustible hydrogen? Firefighters should use water to fight a lithium-ion battery fire. Water works just fine as a fire extinguishing medium since the lithium inside of these batteries are a lithium salt electrolyte and not pure lithium metal. Confusion on this topic stems from the fact that pure lithium (like what you see in the table of elements) is highly reactive with water, while lithium salts are nonreactive with water.

#### How should lithium-ion batteries be disposed of?

Lithium-ion batteries and the devices that contain them should not go in household garbage or recycling bins. They can cause fires during transport or at landfills and recyclers. Instead, lithium-ion batteries should be taken to separate recycling or household hazardous waste collection points. Many stores that sell large quantities of lithium-ion batteries will have a recycling program where you can return the batteries there. Your local waste management or recycling center should be able to take lithium-ion batteries as well.



With summer approaching and warm weather soon upon us, the number of motorcyclists sharing the roads with motor vehicles will be increasing. The Start Seeing Motorcycles Campaign was created to raise motorist awareness of motorcycles in order to reduce the number of motorcycle related crashes. All across the state signs bearing the Start Seeing Motorcycles message have been seen.

In order to better equip motorcyclists with the tools they need to ride safely, the Gear Up Program was launched. Some of the key points of the program include encouraging riders to keep their bikes in good running condition, to wear protective clothing and

increase their visibility. Protective gear includes sturdy footwear, straight-leg pants made of heavy material, reflective or brightly colored long sleeved shirt or jacket, a DOT approved helmet, eye protection and full fingered gloves.

Motorcycles represent only 3% of all vehicle registrations in the state. Therefore, motorcyclists are among the most vulnerable vehicle types on the

road and can be easily overlooked by motorists. When you ride, be aware of your surroundings, others may not see you. Whenever there is a motor vehicle versus motorcycle accident, most of the time the operators comment is, "I did not see the bike". There are free Cycle Rider Safety courses offered statewide. These courses provide motorcyclists with additional safety knowledge and training.

#### Tips

- Remember that motorists often have trouble seeing motorcycles and reacting in time.
- Make sure your headlight works and is on day and night.
- Use reflective strips or decals on your clothing and on your motorcycle.
- Be aware of the blind spots cars and trucks have. Flash your brake light when you are slowing down and before stopping. If a motorist doesn't see you, don't be afraid to use your horn.
- Dress for safety. Wear a quality helmet and eye protection. Wear bright clothing and a light-colored helmet. Wear leather or other thick, protective clothing. Choose long sleeves and pants, over-the-ankle boots, and gloves. Remember – the only thing between you and the road is your protective gear.
- Constantly search the road for changing conditions.
- Give yourself space and time to respond to other motorists' actions. Give other motorists time and space to respond to you.
- Use lane positioning to be seen; ride in the part of a lane where you are most visible.
- Watch for turning vehicles.
- Signal your next move in advance.

- Avoid weaving between lanes.
- Pretend you're invisible, and ride extra defensively.
- Don't ride when you are tired or under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.
- Know and follow the rules of the road, and stick to the speed limit. Know your bike and how to use it:
- Get formal training and take refresher courses.

Practice and develop your riding techniques before going into heavy traffic. Know how to handle your bike in conditions such as wet or sandy roads, high winds, and uneven surfaces. Remember: Give yourself space. People driving cars often just don't see motorcycles. Even when drivers do see you, chances are they've never been on a motorcycle and can't properly judge your speed.

The latest vehicle mile travel data show motorcyclists are about 27 times as likely as passenger car occupants to die in a motor vehicle traffic crash and 6 times as likely to be injured. Safe motorcycling takes balance, coordination, and good judgment. Here are some ways to ensure that you'll be around to enjoy riding

your motorcycle for many years to come.

Before every ride, you should check the tire pressure and tread depth, hand and foot brakes, headlights and signal indicators, and fluid levels. You should also check under the motorcycle for signs of oil or gas leaks. If you're carrying cargo, you should secure and balance the load on the cycle; and adjust the suspension and tire pressure to accommodate the extra weight. If you're

carrying a passenger, he or she should mount the motorcycle only after the engine has started; should sit as far forward as possible, directly behind you; and should keep both feet on the foot rests at all times, even when the motorcycle is stopped. Remind your passenger to keep his or her legs and feet away from the muffler. Tell your passenger to hold on firmly to your waist, hips, or belt; keep movement to a minimum; and lean at the same time and in the same direction as you do. Do not let your passenger dismount the motorcycle until you say it is safe.

If you're ever in a serious motorcycle crash, the best hope you have for protecting your brain is a motorcycle helmet. Always wear a helmet meeting the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) 218. Some motorcycle helmets, in addition to offering protection to your head in a crash, include plastic face shields that offer protection from wind, rain, insects, dust, and stones thrown up from cars. If your helmet doesn't have a face shield, be sure you wear goggles because eyeglasses won't keep your eyes from watering, and can easily fall off.

Alcohol and drugs, including some prescribed medications, negatively affect your judgment, coordination, balance, throttle control, and ability to shift gears. These substances also impair your alertness and reduce your reaction time. Even when you're fully alert, it's impossible to predict what other vehicles or pedestrians are going to do. Therefore, make sure you are alcohol and drug free when you get on your motorcycle. Otherwise, you'll be heading for trouble.

## SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS WEEK 2024

There is nothing we can do to stop severe thunderstorms, lightning, tornadoes or floods from developing. However, there are things that everyone can do to minimize the impacts of severe weather on our lives.

#### **STAY INFORMED**

This can be done by monitoring a weather alert radio, local radio & TV broadcasts, NWS web pages, or various applications on computers and smart phones. DON'T just rely on one method - especially storm sirens - which are NOT designed to be heard indoors by everyone.

#### HAVE AN EMERGENCY PLAN

Do this for your home, business, schools and when you are traveling. Designate places to go to seek safe shelter from a tornado or severe thunderstorm. Pick two places to meet in case you are separated from your family or co-workers. While traveling or when away from home, know the names of the locations you are visiting especially county and city names.

# PREPARE YOURSELF & YOUR HOME FOR AN EMERGENCY

Learn how to use a fire extinguisher, how to administer CPR, and how to turn off the electricity, gas and water supplies in your home. Inspect your home for potential hazards such as weakened trees or limbs, cracked windows or worn roofing. When you build a new structure - or renovate an existing one - there are ways to prevent wind damage to roofs, upper floors and garages. Rafters, trusses, walls and doors can all be reinforced.

#### HAVE AN EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

Some storms produce power outages that will last for several days.

## WHAT TO DO:

#### HOME

Get as low as possible - completely underground is best. Put as many barriers between you and the outside as possible and away from all windows. Use coverings (pillows, blankets, sleeping bags, coats, etc) and helmets to shield your head and body and to protect yourself from flying debris.

#### PUBLIC

You need to think about what you will do if a tornado threatens you while you're away from home - at work, church, school, while shopping, dining out, on vacation, or participating in outdoor activities. There is a myth that tornadoes don't hit urban areas, but this is UNTRUE! Three things to remember:

- **1. GET IN** put as many walls between you and the outside as possible
- 2. GET DOWN if you can't get underground, get as low as possible
- **3. COVER UP** use whatever you have to protect your head and body from flying missiles
- 4. If a tornado threatens, you should not leave in your car! Being in a sturdy building is most likely safer than being in your vehicle on the road if a tornado hits. Stay calm and cool and try to find a safe shelter wherever you are.

## **MOBILE HOMES**

Even an EF-1 tornado, typically considered a "weak tornado", will most likely severely damage a mobile home and/or roll it over. This is why tornado safety plans for BEFORE the storms arrive are so crucial for residents of mobile homes! Taking cover under sturdy furniture, in a bathtub or closet or under a mattress will be meaningless in a mobile home if the home itself is destroyed, blown over, or rolled over by tornado or severe thunderstorm winds.

#### APARTMENTS

The basic tornado safety guidelines apply if you live in an apartment. Get to the lowest floor, with as many walls between you and the outside as possible. Apartment dwellers should have a plan, particularly if you live on the upper floors. If your complex does not have a reinforced shelter, you should make arrangements to get to an apartment on the lowest floor possible.

#### TAKING SHELTER OUTDOORS

Ditches, culverts, and ravines should be used only as an absolute last resort. You will be exposed to flying debris, rain and hail, lightning and extreme wind. People have survived by seeking shelter in ditches, but people have also died. If you must leave your vehicle to seek shelter in a ditch, you should try to get as far away from the vehicle, as well as any other potential "missiles" as possible

## INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT TORNADOES

- 1. Tornadoes can form in any month of the year, not just during "tornado season". In the Midwest it tends to run from April 1 through June 30th, when around 80% of all tornadoes happen. However, they can occur during any month of the year, sometimes even in the middle of winter.
- 2. Tornadoes happen anywhere that the weather conditions create the right environment for them, but 75% of all tornadoes happen in the United States.
- 3. The Insurance Information Institute estimates an average of 1,000 tornadoes a year in the United States. While this sounds like a lot, many are light or moderate tornadoes that cause minimal, if any, damage.
- 4. For a storm to be considered a tornado, it must have a wind speed of at least 65 mph. However, the strongest tornadoes have measured over 300 mph.
- 5. Supercell storms produce the most deadly tornadoes. These storms occur when the wind creates a rotating updraft. Once this updraft starts rotating and pulls in warm, moist air from ground level, a tornado can form. Non-supercell tornadoes are usually smaller and occur when there is not an updraft. Rather, there is a vertically spinning bit of air near the ground caused by wind shear from warm or cold fronts. If conditions are right, this spinning area stretches and becomes a tornado.
- 6. The Enhanced Fujita Scale measures tornadoes based on wind speed, giving them a rating called an EF rating. The scale measures the wind speed of a three-second gust of wind. An EF 0 rating is from 65 to 85 mph, while an EF 5, the highest rating, is anything over 200 mph.
- 7. When the storm patterns are right to create one tornado, they often create more than one at the same time. These tornado outbreaks can cause extensive damage in a geographic area, even though each individual tornado has a limited range.
- 8. Tornadoes can produce "debris balls" As the tornado spins through an area, it picks up dirt, tree limbs and leaves along with debris from all sorts of human-made items. These get spun into balls known as debris balls, which the wind can throw into buildings and cars, causing further damage.
- 9. Tornadoes can create "anticyclonic tornadoes"

that spin in the opposite direction. In the Northern Hemisphere, most tornadoes turn in a counterclockwise direction, and in the Southern Hemisphere, they go clockwise. Anticyclonic tornadoes take the opposite direction, and this affects only 2% of the tornadoes in the area. These tend to be smaller and weaker than cyclonic tornadoes.

10. Tornadoes tend to occur in "Tornado Alley" and "Dixie Alley" in the United States. Tornado Alley is a name given to a stretch of land between Kansas and Oklahoma known for its many tornadoes. Dixie Alley is a similar stretch that covers Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee. These areas have weather conditions that frequently turn into tornadoes. Dixie Alley has fewer tornadoes, but they tend to be stronger.

## ILLIINOIS TORNADOES





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