



FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE - May 18, 2007

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Village of Glendale Heights Emergency Preparedness Exercise Successful!

Governmental Agency Partnership:

Village of Glendale Heights

Glenside Fire Protection District

Bloomington Fire Protection District

Marquardt School District 15

Queen Bee School District 16

Glenbard School District 87

GlenOaks Hospital

Glenside Public Library

DuPage County Board

DuPage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (OEM)

The Village of Glendale Heights, working in partnership with local and county emergency responders, conducted the long-awaited Emergency Preparedness Exercise on May 16, 2007, between the hours of 8:00 am and 1:00 pm. At 9:18 a tornado swept through the area of the 100 block of East Fullerton Avenue... at least it looked that way!



The Village, Glenside and Bloomington Fire Protection Districts, Glenside Library District, School Districts 15, 16, & 87, Adventist GlenOaks Hospital, DuPage County and many other area emergency responders went into action during Operation Ill Wind, the name given to the full scale emergency drill. In May of 2006 planners started the process which culminated with Wednesday's "tornado" striking the community.

Emergency responders were put to the test when they responded to the drill that involved two actual houses partially destroyed, three cars flipped on their sides in the roadway, large amounts of debris scattered across a quarter mile area, and a school bus flipped over. They also discovered twelve injured people, actors playing their role to the fullest, not only complaining of injury but by being made up with extremely realistic wounds. Emergency workers had to locate, react to and remediate real life situations that the fictitious tornado caused.

Mayor Linda Jackson commented, "This was a wonderful opportunity for our emergency responders in Glendale Heights and the surrounding communities that participated. The training was very realistic." Mayor Jackson also wished to express her appreciation to all involved: "I am truly grateful to all the planners, first responder participants, support personnel, the agencies associated with all those people, and the public, for their cooperation in making this a tremendously successful exercise."

The Village of Glendale Heights continues to train and prepare in the event of an actual disaster in order to better serve the Village, as well as surrounding communities that require mutual aid disaster assistance.