

Deerfield Park District

836 Jewett Park Drive • Deerfield, IL 60015-3291 • (847) 945-0650 • Fax (847) 945-0699 • www.deerfieldparks.org

March 10, 2014

Dear *Lew*,

On Tuesday, April 1, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. the Thorguard Lightning Prediction System will be tested for the first time this year. It will then remain in operation until November 30, 2014. The system does not operate during the winter months as the batteries must be removed from the units to prevent them from freezing. The units will also be tested at 10 a.m. on the first Tuesday of each month through November.

As a reminder here is some basic information about the Thorguard system:

- If atmospheric conditions are right for lightning to develop, the horns and lights will activate, indicating that individuals should seek shelter.
- One **long horn blast** means that there is a **strong risk of lightning**. The **strobe light** should also illuminate to indicate the **continuing risk** of lightning. Under both of these circumstances, all individuals should **seek shelter** in a building or a vehicle.
- When **three short horn blasts** are heard and the **strobe light ceases to illuminate**, the threat of lightning has passed, but use caution if conditions continue to appear threatening.

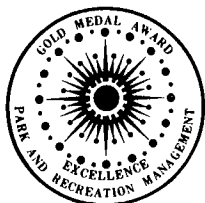
We ask that you review this information with all individuals on your staff and in your building and remind them of their responsibilities when the Thorguard system is activated. An informational flyer is also included in this letter to help with this process.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Linda Anderson

Linda Anderson
Superintendent of Recreation



Commissioners

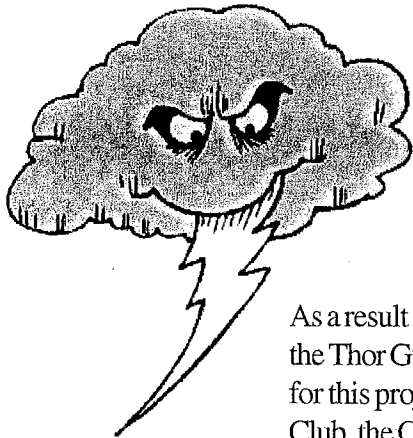
Gil Antokal Joe Cohen
Jan Caron Greg Lapin
Rick Patinkin

Rick Julison, Director

Affiliated With

National Recreation and Park Association
Illinois Association of Park Districts
Illinois Park and Recreation Association

Thor Guard Information



Thor Guard Lightning Prediction System Information

As a result of the efforts of the Deerfield Park Foundation and local community organizations, the Thor Guard Lightning Prediction System is now in operation. The organizations responsible for this project's success are The District 109 Education Foundation, AYSO, the Coho Swim Club, the Optimists' Club of Deerfield, DYBA, the Pegasus Youth Soccer Club, the Lions' Club and the Rotary Club of Deerfield. Educational materials have been made possible in part by the generosity of the American Legion Post #738, the National Family Partnership of Deerfield and the Optimists' Club of Deerfield. In cooperation with the Village of Deerfield, this system will be tested on the first Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m.



Although this system is meant to warn the public that conditions are right for possible lightning danger, please know that this system is NOT 100 percent accurate as it operates on radio waves which are variable. As not every unit will go off simultaneously, please use common sense when conditions appear threatening, even if you do not hear or see Thor Guard warnings.



Signs have been posted in all the parks, at all the pools and at all the schools providing basic safety information. The system will be active from April through November.

Lightning is a severe hazard that must be considered seriously. Stop and seek shelter any time you believe lightning threatens, even if no signal has been sounded. Here are some simple rules to follow:

- One prolonged horn blast signifies a strong lightning risk. (This is possible even if weather does not look threatening.)
- The strobe light signals a continuing lightning alert condition.
- Seek shelter in major buildings or vehicles.
- Three short horn blasts signal that it is safe to return to the area.

The safety of our residents and others who use our park district facilities is a major concern of the Deerfield Park District and the Deerfield Park Foundation. We are pleased that this system is available for your safety. Please follow appropriate precautions when Thor Guard goes off.

