

Woodlake Property Owners Association Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

The publication of this newsletter is unofficial and does not reflect any opinion, directive, or policy of the Woodlake Property Owners Association members or Board of Directors.

The primary purpose of the newsletter is to convey information designed to assist us to reduce or prevent crime in our community.

The information presented is available through various public access sources, personal interview, or observation. Your comments as to how we can improve this effort are welcome.

1. Bell County Sheriff Tip Line: Wanted as of: October, 2012:
[http://71.6.170.26/revize/bellcounty/departments/cscd\(adult_probation\)/most_wanted.php](http://71.6.170.26/revize/bellcounty/departments/cscd(adult_probation)/most_wanted.php). Two of this week's fugitives are brown-haired females; one from Temple and the other, Killeen. The last known addresses of the four males: a sex-offender, a dead-beat dad, a thief and a violent assailant's last known addresses are: Waco, Copperas Cove, Killeen, and Harker Heights, respectively. Please review the attached flyer; if you have any information regarding those individuals, call the Bell County Sheriff's Office at 254-933-5400, your local law enforcement, or **CRIMESTOPPERS AT 1-800-729-TIPS** (Local 526-TIPS) There is now an "on-line" crime reporting system for your convenience at:

http://71.6.170.26/revize/bellcounty/citizen_online_reporting_system/index.php

Austin: This issue features Ricco Leo Torres currently wanted for dangerous drugs and traffic citations and a reward of \$10,000 for information leading to his arrest. **RACE:** White **SEX:** Male **DOB:** 04/21/80 **HEIGHT:** 5'9" **WEIGHT:** 180 lbs. **AKA:** Rico Leo Torres **SMT:** Tattoos: "Sandra" on left side of chest; female figure, money bag, and gun in center of abdomen; "79", dragon, faces, tower, and clown in center of back; "Rico" on back of neck **Gang(s):** GraffitiLKA:9422 Nottingham Drive **lkc:** El Paso, Texas **Caution:** Subject should be considered ARMED and DANGEROUS!



DETAILS: Ricco Leo **TORRES** is a native of Santa Clara, California, and is a member of the Barrio Azteca prison gang. He has been arrested 13 times and charged with 28 offenses since 1997. In 2003, he was arrested for Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon and served two years in prison.

On January 27, 2011, **TORRES** and two associates were arrested by the El Paso County Sheriff's Office during a cocaine transaction. **TORRES** absconded prior to being indicted.

On May 6, 2011, the El Paso District Attorney's Office issued a Capias Writ for **TORRES'** arrest for Dangerous Drugs.

TORRES has family living in the El Paso, Texas area. He has never held a legitimate paying job. **LKA**<http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/texas10mostwanted/>

2. Crime Update:

Harker Heights - Police responded to a domestic disturbance call in the 900 block or Crymes Lane on Tuesday night. Cheyenne Prettyflower Todd Warner, 25, was arrested on charges that she stabbed her boyfriend during an altercation. When police arrived they found that the disturbance had escalated, and that Warner's boyfriend had been stabbed in the back with a knife. He was transported to a hospital for treatment.

Waco - On Wednesday, 27-year-old Jerome Maurice Cole of Killeen was sentenced by a federal judge to 40 years behind bars for recruiting girls into prostitution. In November, Cole pleaded guilty to sex trafficking of children using cellphones and the Internet. Police rescued a 16-year-old runaway from Cole's home in Killeen last May. Another 16-year-old girl who was forced into prostitution had been identified. Cole was arrested when a third child being recruited returned to Cole's home.

3. The Time of Year for Tornadoes Is Upon Us. Don't Get Caught Unprepared - A tornado is a violently rotating column of air, pendant from a cumuliform cloud (thunderstorm) or underneath a cumuliform cloud, and often (but not always) visible as a funnel cloud. For a vortex to be classified as a tornado, it must be in contact with the ground and the cloud base.

Most thunderstorms form when warm, moist Gulf air encounters cold, dry Canadian air and along or near warm fronts, cold fronts and drylines respectively. Without rapid thermal uplift (rapidly rising warm air from the ground) or mechanical lifting (rising terrain) most thunderstorms never come close to producing tornadoes.

Tornadoes can also happen without a funnel. Some funnels are high-based and may never reach the surface or the funnel can be masked by the low-hanging cumuliform cloud, and what might look like "just a funnel cloud" may be doing damage which can't be seen from a distance. Still, since a funnel cloud might quickly become a tornado, it should be always be reported by spotters.

The truth is; however, that exactly how and where a thunderstorm may produce a tornado, even in high-risk zones, is not fully understood. Nor, do scientists understand what some of those causes are because much of it is almost impossible to simulate in a lab.

Despite the things reported in the wake of a tornado, most of the weirdest events are chalked-up to "folklore". Tornadoes have been known to sandblast the edges of paved roads with gravel and other small detritus, eroding the edges and causing chunks to peel loose from the road base and strip asphalt pavement away. Tornado strength wind has been recreated in labs using specially designed cannons. By shooting boards and other objects at over 100 mph into various types of construction materials, experiments have duplicated some of the kinds of "bizarre" effects, such as wood splinters embedded in bricks. Intense wind can bend a tree or other objects, creating cracks in which debris (e.g., hay straw) becomes lodged before the tree straightens and the crack tightens shut again. All bizarre damage effects have a physical cause inside the roiling maelstrom of tornado wind.

Tornadoes can appear from any direction. Most move from southwest to northeast, or west to east. Some tornadoes have changed direction amid path, or even backtracked. For example, a tornado can double back suddenly, when its bottom is hit by outflow wind from a thunderstorm's core. In some areas where there is an increased frequency of certain tornado-producing weather patterns (say, hurricanes in south Texas, or northwest-flow weather systems in the upper Midwest), tornado paths from a specific direction are easier to predict.

Tornadoes can happen any day or night of the year. Indeed, the earliest on modern record (since 1950) was two minutes into the Yew Year - 12:02 a.m. CST, 1 January 2011, in Attala County, MS. The average first-tornado date in the U. S. is January 11, for the entire 1950-2011 time frame. The latest first-tornado was on 15 February 2003, in Marengo County, AL, meaning that the nation had 45 days of tornado-free weather to start that year.

Tornado season usually means the peak period for historical tornado reports in an area, when averaged over the history of reports. There is a general northward shift in "tornado season" in the U. S. from late winter through mid summer. The peak period for tornadoes in the southern plains, for example, is during May into early June. On the Gulf coast, it is earlier during the spring; in the northern plains and upper Midwest, it is June or July.

Economically, tornadoes cause about a tenth as much damage per year, on average, as hurricanes. Hurricanes tend to cause much more



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overall destruction than tornadoes because of their much larger size, longer duration and their greater variety of ways to damage property.

The destructive core in hurricanes can be tens of miles across, last many hours and damage structures through storm surge and rainfall-caused flooding, as well as from wind. Tornadoes, in contrast, tend to be a few hundred yards in diameter, last for minutes and primarily cause damage from their extreme winds.

The most destructive and deadly tornadoes occur from supercells - which are rotating thunderstorms with a well-defined radar circulation called a mesocyclone. Supercells can also produce damaging hail, severe non-tornadic wind, unusually frequent lightning, and flash floods.

Tornado formation is believed to be dictated mainly by things which happen on the storm scale, in and around the mesocyclone. Recent theories and results from the VORTEX program suggest that once a mesocyclone is underway, tornado development is related to the temperature differences across the edge of downdraft air wrapping around the mesocyclone (the occlusion downdraft).

As interesting as all that scientific gobbley-goop is, none of it is worth the paper it's written on if you don't have a plan to take the necessary precautions when the "Warning Sirens" sound.

Exposed, the risks to you and your loved ones are extremely high. Though, a hurricane typically causes much more damage over far larger area, wind from the strongest tornadoes, however, far exceed that from the strongest hurricanes.

Tornadoes have lofted (mainly light) debris many miles into the sky, which was then blown by middle and upper-atmospheric winds for long distances. Stories of checks and other papers found over 100 miles away are often true. The Worcester MA tornado of 9 June 1953 carried mattress pieces high into the thunderstorm, where they were coated in ice, before they fell into Boston Harbor. Pilots reported seeing debris fluttering through the air at high altitude near the thunderstorm which spawned the Ruskin Heights MO tornado of 20 May 1957.

The vertical winds in tornadoes can be strong enough, though the heaviest objects, such as railroad cars, can only be airborne for short distances, to temporarily levitate even heavy objects if they have a large face to the wind or flat sides (like roofs, walls, trees and cars). Vehicles are notorious as death traps in tornadoes, because they are easily tossed and destroyed.

If a tornado has been spotted or indicated by weather radar, or when a tornado warning is issued for your town or county, take immediate measures to seek shelter. Of course, the safest place to be when a tornado approaches is in a basement or storm shelter underground.

The "safe southwest corner" is an old myth based on the belief that, since tornadoes usually come from the SW, debris will preferentially fall into the NE side of the basement. There are several problems with this concept, including: (1) Tornadoes are not straight-line winds, even on the scale of a house, so the strongest wind may be blowing from any direction; and (2) Tornadoes themselves may arrive from any direction.

In a basement, the safest place is under a sturdy workbench, mattress or other such protection--and out from under heavy furniture or appliances resting on top of the floor above

But if you are not able to get to a shelter or basement, you need to find shelter that is available: (1) Get to a windowless interior room, such as a bathroom, closet or inner hallway, (2) Stay as far from windows as possible, (3) Go to the center of the room - corners tend to attract debris, (4) Get under a sturdy piece of furniture; heavy table or desk, and hold on to it, (4) Protect your head and neck with a blanket, if possible.

Never open the windows to relieve pressure. All that will do is create the danger of being injured by flying glass or debris. When a tornado hits your home, it will blast the windows open anyway.

If you are at work or school: (1) Go to the basement or an inside hallway at the lowest level, (2) Avoid places with wide-span roofs such as auditoriums, cafeterias, gymnasiums, large hallways or shopping malls, (3) Get under a sturdy piece of furniture such as a desk or heavy table, (4) Use your arms to protect head and neck.

If you are in your car, either leave the vehicle for sturdy shelter or drive out of the tornado's path. When the traffic is jammed or the tornado is bearing down on you at close range, your only option may be to park safely off the traffic lanes, get out and find a sturdy building for shelter, if possible. If not, lie flat in a low spot, as far from the road as possible (to avoid flying vehicles). Whether or not the tornado hits, parking on traffic lanes creates a potentially deadly hazard for others, who may plow into your vehicle at full highway speeds in the rain, hail, and/or dust, and is illegal. Also, it can trap people in the storm's path against their will, or block emergency vehicles from saving lives.

In open country, the best option is to escape if the tornado is far away. If the traffic allows, and the tornado is distant, you probably have time to drive out of its path. Watch the tornado closely for a few seconds compared to a fixed object in the foreground (such as a tree, pole, or other landmark). If it appears to be moving to your right or left, it is not moving toward you. Still, you should escape at right angles to its track: to your right if it is moving to your left, and vice versa - just to put more distance between you and its path. If the tornado appears to stay in the same place, growing larger or getting closer - but not moving either right or left - it is headed right at you. You must take shelter away from the car or get out of its way fast! If the tornado starts to hit your car, get as low as you can while staying in your seatbelt, leaning down and away from the windows and windshield as far as possible.

Stopping under a bridge to take shelter from a tornado is a very dangerous: (1) Deadly flying debris can still be blasted into the spaces between bridge and grade, and impaled in any people hiding there, (2) Even when strongly gripping the girders (if they exist), people may be blown loose, out from under the bridge and into the open - possibly well up into the tornado itself with deadly consequences, (3) The bridge itself may fail, peeling apart and creating large flying objects, or even collapsing down onto people underneath. The structural integrity of many bridges in tornado winds is unknown - even for those which may look sturdy.

A tornado warning means that a tornado has been spotted, or that Doppler radar indicates a thunderstorm circulation which can spawn a tornado.

A tornado watch defines an area shaped like a parallelogram, where tornadoes and other kinds of severe weather are possible in the next several hours. It does not mean tornadoes are imminent, just that you need to be alert, and to be prepared to go to safe shelter if tornadoes do happen or a warning is issued. This is the time to turn on local TV or radio, turn on and set the alarm switch on your weather radio, make sure you have ready access to safe shelter, and make your friends and family aware of the potential for tornadoes in the area. To learn more about severe weather emergency preparation and response go to:

<http://www.tdi.texas.gov/pubs/videoresource/stpsevwea.pdf>

4. On The Horizon - The Time of Year for (fill in the blank) Is Upon Us. Don't Get Caught Unprepared - Outlook, Cause and Effect. What you need to know to protect yourself from the threat a raging wild fire.