

## **Lots of Hot Weather Brings Lots of Warnings**

This summer is proving to be one of the hottest on record, and with the extreme heat there has been plenty of storm potential. Luckily most of the forecasted storms have travelled around us, and we haven't experienced serious weather events. However, the storms have passed close enough to initiate automated storm warnings on the Bluewater Community Alerting System (BCAN).

The National Oceanographic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) operates the automated weather service for BCAN. The NOAA will automatically issue weather warnings for our area---these are the weather alerts you will see on your BCAN receivers in your home. A severe thunderstorm warning is indicated by radar or is reported by a spotter when a storm produces 2.5cm hail (1 inch) and winds exceeding 93 km/h (58 miles/h). An excessive heat warning is issued within 12 hours of the onset of 40 Celsius (105 Fahrenheit). If any of the conditions change, the NOAA will re-issue the warning.

Unfortunately it is these changing conditions that have resulted in the BCAN receivers going off repeatedly in the wee hours of the morning. Several people have lodged concerns that "I know it is hot" or "I can hear the storm coming" and "This thing keeps waking me up for nothing." The St. Clair Township Fire Department understands your concerns, but the basic tenet of the BCAN system is that if you hear the unit go off, you need to react. The nature of weather warnings means that the storms are in the area and are threatening, but the warnings are no guarantee the storm will hit us. These warnings work on a "better safe than sorry" scenario.

Unfortunately, the St. Clair Township Fire Department does not have control of when or how often the NOAA issues these warnings, much like we do not have control of when or where severe weather will hit. However, if you no longer wish to receive the NOAA weather warnings, you can remove this service by completing the following steps:

1. Switch your receiver from "online" to "set up."
2. Press the "next" button to highlight "Address" and press the "Alarm Stop" button.
3. Press the "Alarm Stop" button a second time and the words "Add/Remove" will appear at the top of the screen.
4. Enter the code 037363 into the unit.
  - a. Press the "next" button to move up through the numbers, and press the "Alarm Stop" button to move to the next column.
5. Once you have completed the code press the "Alarm Stop" button again, and the words "address removed" should come on the screen.
6. Flip the switch back to "online" to finish the process.

Even if you opt out of the NOAA weather warnings, your receiver will still register any messages issued by the Fire Department or industry regarding an emergency.

In the end, these receivers are designed to keep us safe during many emergency situations, even the ones in the middle of the night. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact the St. Clair Township Fire Department at (519) 481-0111.