

NASA TECH BRIEF

Marshall Space Flight Center



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Tornado Detector and Alarm

The problem:

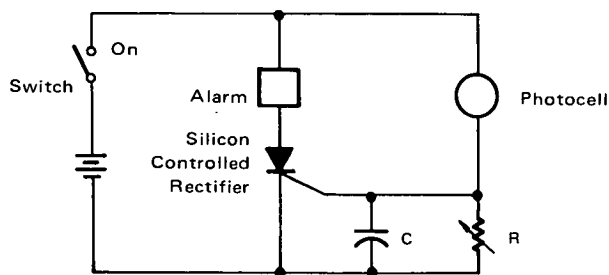
Rural areas in the "tornado belt" do not have an inexpensive tornado alarm other than constantly monitoring the radio for weather bulletins.

The solution:

A simple automatic device which attaches to an active T.V. set will sound an audible alarm when a tornado is within 29 km (18 miles) of the device.

How it's done:

Electric disturbances within the vacuum funnel of a tornado turn an energized but black (brightness control turned down) T.V. screen white. This is sensed by the circuit shown. The alarm or alarms can be located remotely from the T.V. set such as in the bedroom or barn. Attachment of the circuit does not require any special skill or tools, and if the alarm is not to be remotely located, additional wiring is not required. The circuit consists of a photocell, mounted by suction cup to the picture tube within the T.V. cabinet, a capacitor (which serves as a transient voltage protector and time delay to suppress transient voltage spikes or the effect of nearby lightning), a silicon controlled rectifier rated for the alarm current and voltage, and a switch.



Note:

Requests for further information may be directed to:

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Reference: B72-10106

Patent status:

No patent action is contemplated by NASA.

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