

# PURDUE UNIVERSITY



**SAFETY AND SECURITY**

February 1, 2001

TO: Vice Presidents, Deans, Directors, and Heads of Schools, Divisions, Departments and Offices

RE: Severe Weather-Tornadoes & Thunderstorms

Purdue University is located in a region of the United States that is susceptible to severe weather such as severe thunderstorms and tornadoes. Faculty, staff, and students can better prepare themselves to respond to severe weather by considering the following topics.

## I. Preparation

- (a) Locate an accessible basement or corridor location in your building.
- (b) Identified sheltered areas should be away from glass & exterior walls.
- (c) Stay informed through local media sources when severe weather is expected.
- (d) Obtain a National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio with a warning alarm tone.
- (e) Keep a good reliable flashlight in your office/work area.
- (f) Contact the Safety & Security Department for more information on Tornadoes.

## II. Response

- (a) A "Tornado Warning" issued by the National Weather Service means you must seek shelter immediately.
- (b) When an exterior siren sounds or a NOAA weather radio sounds a warning alarm tone, you must seek shelter immediately (Exterior sirens will sound for three minutes).
- (c) Proceed to the basement of any building that has a basement.
- (d) Position yourself in an interior corridor away from window glass.

## III. Aftermath

- (a) A "Tornado Warning" can be considered ALL CLEAR when the National Weather Service states that the "Tornado Warning" has expired. Local radio and television can be used as a source for the expiration of the "Tornado Warning" time period. The sirens will remain silent.
- (b) Always remain in a place of shelter until you receive an all clear message or until you are sure the tornado has passed.
- (c) For detailed actions concerning Tornado Emergencies see the Emergency Procedures Handbook which is available through the Safety & Security Department.
- (d) Notify the Police Department of any emergency conditions resulting from the storm.
- (e) Stay out of damaged buildings.
- (f) Avoid buildings and areas with broken utility lines (i.e., gas, electric, water).
- (g) In the event of a serious tornadic event, it may be necessary to contact emergency services at 494-2000.

## IV. Additional Information

- (a) See Executive Memorandum No. C-35 for policies related to Adverse Weather.
- (b) The reverse side of this memo should be conspicuously posted.
- (c) Contact the Safety & Security Department at 494-1424 for assistance in developing tornado response procedures in your area.

Respectfully,

William M. Coghill, Director  
Safety and Security

# TORNADO PROCEDURES

Purdue University  
West Lafayette Campus

## TORNADO WATCH

---

---

A "Tornado Watch" is issued when atmospheric conditions are favorable for the formation of tornadoes in a given area. Under these conditions keep informed by listening to radio or television.

## A TORNADO WARNING

---

---

A "Tornado Warning" indicates that a tornado has been sighted and poses a definite threat to a given area.

## WARNING SIGNALS

---

---

- ? A NOAA weather alert radio will sound the appropriate alert as required by the National Weather Service.
- ? Outdoor sirens will sound for a period in excess of two minutes. When this occurs, tune into local radio and TV stations to determine the nature of the emergency.
- ? A voice message will be broadcast over WBAA, the University television antenna system, and other local radio and television stations.

The **ALL CLEAR** signal is announced by radio and television stations. The sirens remain silent.

## WHEN TAKING SHELTER

---

---

Proceed to the basement of any building that has a basement or subwalk. Position yourself in the safest portion of the area away from glass. Be prepared to kneel facing a wall and cover your head.

In high-rise (four stories or more) buildings, vacate the top floor and move to a lower floor or to the basement. Position yourself in an interior corridor away from glass. Be prepared to kneel facing the wall and cover your head.

## SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS

---

---

The National Weather Service issues severe thunderstorm watches and warnings. Remember that tornadoes are spawned from severe thunderstorms.

## SIREN TESTING

---

---

The exterior warning sirens are tested at 11:00 a.m. on the first Saturday of every month except during periods of adverse weather conditions.