

# Severe Weather Awareness Training for Staff/Residents

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TIM WHITE

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# Definitions and Terms

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**Warning:** severe weather is currently occurring in the area

**Watch:** conditions are favorable for severe weather

Watches and warnings are issued for: severe thunderstorms, hail, flash floods, and tornadoes

# Types of Thunderstorms

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A thunderstorm is classified as severe if it has any of the following characteristics

- Hail greater than 1" in diameter (dime size)
- Winds greater than 58 miles per hour
- Tornado

# Types of Thunderstorms

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## **Single Cell (Pulse):**

- Generally weak, short lived, and poorly organized

## **Multicell Cluster:**

- Most common type
- Series of cells moving as one unit

## **Multicell Line:**

- AKA “Squall Line”
- Long line of storms with gust front at leading edge

## **Supercell:**

- Very strong and produce severe weather

# Thunderstorm Spectrum

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*Minimal  
threat (?)*

*Moderate  
threat*

*Moderate  
threat*

*High threat  
Mesocyclone  
present*

# Tornadoes

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Tornadoes are always dangerous regardless of shape, size, or color

Large cities and mountains are just as prone to tornadoes as wide open fields

Average tornado speed is 30mph, but they can move as fast as 70mph

- Do not attempt to outrun a tornado, find shelter immediately

# Tornado Fujita Scale

| F Scale | Type        | Strength | Winds       |
|---------|-------------|----------|-------------|
| 0       | Gale        | Weak     | 40-72 mph   |
| 1       | Moderate    | Weak     | 73-112 mph  |
| 2       | Significant | Strong   | 113-157 mph |
| 3       | Severe      | Strong   | 158-206 mph |
| 4       | Devastating | Violent  | 207-260 mph |
| 5       | Incredible  | Violent  | 261-318 mph |

# Severe Weather Alerts

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During periods of severe weather it is important to keep an eye on the sky

Local television, radio, and the Internet are vital sources of information

A S.A.M.E NOAA weather radio is essential for immediate watches and warnings



# Be Prepared

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Be Prepared – Know Your Surroundings!!

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- How would you identify your primary shelter location
  - Where is a secondary location?

- Look for this sign...



# Communication

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How will I be notified about the need to shelter in place?

VOIP phones!

Police/OEMP direction

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Computer screens and emails

Wall mounted flat screens

Bull horns or loud speakers



# What to Do?

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So I have been informed that I need to shelter in place for severe weather. What should I be prepared to do?

Be Prepared To Act!!!!

# What to Do ?

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- Do you know what to do?
- What would cause you to shelter in place?
- at risks/ hazards are within your facility?
- What alert technologies would be utilized within your facilities?

# Tornadoes: Nature's Most Violent Storm

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They may strike quickly, with little or no warning

Most likely to occur between 3-9 p.m. – the time when the least number of staff are on campus therefore increasing the burden on faculty.

Avg. speed 30-70 mph

Peak season March-May

Moves SW to NE



# What to do Before a Tornado

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Listen to [NOAA Weather Radio](#), commercial radio, or television newscasts for the latest information.

Look for approaching storms.

Look for the following danger signs:

- Dark, often greenish sky
- Large hail
- A large, dark, low-lying cloud (particularly if rotating)
- Loud roar, similar to a freight train
- Sign up for weather alerts



# What to do During a Tornado

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Go to a pre-designated shelter area such as the lowest level of the building.

Think closets & interior hallways - away from corners, windows, doors, and outside walls.

Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside.

Get under a sturdy table and use your arms to protect your head and neck.

# After the Tornado

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Aide the injured (Don't try to move seriously-injured persons unless they are in immediate danger of death or further injury).

Be aware of new safety issues created by the disaster.

Watch for damaged buildings which would include: Contaminated water, gas leaks, broken glass, damaged electrical wiring, and slippery floors.

# After the Tornado

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- ❑ Remain Calm
- ❑ Quickly collect your personal items
- ❑ Evacuate using primary route if available

Do not use elevator!

- ❑ If primary route is unavailable, use secondary route

# After the Tornado

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## Building Damages

- ❑ Evacuate as soon as possible
- ❑ Watch for glass and other debris
- ❑ Move to a safe assembly area outside

# Severe Weather

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Questions?

Thank you!