

Inclement Weather Preparedness

Tornadoes and Severe Thunderstorms

Let's find out...

- **How do we prepare ahead of time?**
- **What is the difference between a watch and a warning?**
- **What are the severe weather communications and alerts on campus?**
- **What are the responsibilities of a CEBC/EBC during severe weather situations?**
- **What are the campus shelter assignments?**
- **How do you lead others to safety?**
- **What do you do if destruction or injuries occur during inclement weather?**
- **What are the expectations during and after tornado safety drills?**

Preparedness

- **Know where the Emergency Storm Shelter is located for your area**
- > **To view the current list of tornado shelters at Wichita State University – [click here](#)**
- > **Several shelter locations have changed due to construction so please refer to this shelter list to verify your current shelter location**

Preparedness

- **Verify there are posted signs for the designated storm shelter locations in your area**



- **Check periodically to make sure your assigned shelter area has no construction zone, temporary offices, or temporary storage blocking shelter occupancy**

Preparedness

- Check periodically to verify the message alert data boards are functioning in your area



- If a message alert data board is not working, contact the Physical Plant at extension 3444 during normal hours of operation

Emergency Preparedness Kit

Keep your Emergency Preparedness Kit and all contents in an easy to access location

- Bag
- Vest
- Flashlight
- Whistle
- Clipboard with pen and information check lists
- Training binder and reference cards
- Temporary emergency signage and tape



Tornadoes and Severe Thunderstorms

- **A severe thunderstorm can produce high winds, heavy rain, dangerous lightning, and hail**
- **Severe thunderstorms can occur independently with no tornado activity**
- **Severe thunderstorms may also be occurring during a tornado watch or warning**

Tornadoes and Severe Thunderstorms

- A tornado is a violent windstorm characterized by a twisting, funnel-shaped cloud
- Tornado season is generally March through August, although tornadoes can occur at any time during the year
- Tornadoes are most likely to occur between 3:00pm to 9:00pm, but have been known to occur at all hours of the day or night

Severe Weather Watches and Warnings

- **In advance of approaching storms, the National Weather Service issues severe weather watches and warnings so citizens are able to make sound judgments about the appropriate actions to take**
- **Many people confuse the meaning of a “watch” and “warning” issued by the National Weather Service**

Tornado Watches and Warnings

➤ Tornado Watch

- Tornadoes are possible in your area**
- Remain alert for approaching storms**
- Continue to monitor weather-related reports**
- Be aware of the nearest tornado shelter location**

➤ Tornado Warning

- A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar within or moving into the warning area**
- Prepare to move to a tornado shelter if sirens activate**

Tornado Warning Broadcasts

- NOAA broadcasts warnings on weather alert radios stationed in multiple locations around campus



- If you have a weather alert radio in your area, unplug the device and take it with you to the shelter location to stay current on alerts using the radio battery back-up

ShockerAlert System

- A *ShockerAlert* will be issued when a tornado warning for Sedgwick County is issued by the National Weather Service
 - > All CEBCs and EBCs must be active in the *ShockerAlert* system
 - > Full details on the *ShockerAlert* system will be provided in the CEBC/EBC Emergency Response Training



Sign up at: wichita.edu/alert

Tornado Warning Siren

- **WSU's main campus houses one of Sedgwick County Emergency Management's tornado sirens**
- **During inclement weather, sirens will only sound in the event of a tornado warning when immediate shelter is required**
- **The siren is an outdoor warning device only**



Take Cover

- **If the warning siren sounds, notify all occupants in your building area**
- **Put on the EBC vest, take your EBC tote with supplies**
- **Take your cell phone if you have one**
- **Begin to move to the designated storm shelter location or to an interior hallway, stairwell, or other room on the lowest building floor**
- **If requested, provide assistance to persons with disabilities**
- **Take a headcount of people in your assigned area**

Take Cover

- **Be alert to falling objects**
- **Stay away from windows, mirrors, glass, and unsecured objects such as filing cabinets and bookcases**
- **Do not use elevators**
- **Remain in the safe area until the “all clear” has been announced by the ShockerAlert System, the National Weather Service, or other emergency responders**

Tornado Occurrence

- **Stay inside and be alert to falling objects**
- **Stay away from windows, mirrors, glass, and unsecured objects**
- **If a building is damaged, leave immediately if possible and do not return unless given permission by the WSU Police or emergency responders**
- **Report to the designated Emergency Evacuation Area and account for all in your group**
- **Do not attempt to turn utilities or equipment on or off**



Handling Injuries

If there are injured individuals in your area:

- **Immediately report any injuries to WSU Police:**
 - > **911 from any campus telephone**
 - > **978-3450 from a cell phone**
 - > **Use a campus emergency lighted phone**

- **Be prepared to give the following information:**
 - > **Location of the injured**
 - > **Condition of the injured**
 - > **Any dangerous conditions**

Tornado Drills

- **Wichita State University participates in the statewide tornado drill occurring annually in March**
- **Upcoming statewide drill on March 4th at 1:30pm**
- **CEBCs and EBCs are expected to perform the assigned duties as if in an actual emergency situation**
- **The purpose of the tornado drill is to ensure that everyone on campus knows and follows procedures for sheltering**

Tornado Drill Evaluation

- **CEBCs will observe the drill, complete evaluation questions, and submit responses**
- **EBCs will monitor who participates in the drill and will partner with CEBCs to complete the evaluations**
- **The tornado drill evaluation asks questions regarding evacuation procedures, participation, and behaviors**
- **This feedback is used in evaluating the evacuation plan**

Tornado Drill Evaluation

Completion and Submission

- **The evaluation questions are listed on the following slide for your review**
- **The actual evaluation form is attached to the same email message which you received with this training module**
- **Please complete the evaluation form by March 11th and submit to Shelly Kellogg**
- **All instructions are listed on the form**

Tornado Drill Evaluation Questions

- **Did you receive the alert promptly?**
- **Via what medium did you receive it first?**
- **What did you do to assist in the evacuation?**
- **Did all building occupants participate?**
- **Were there people with disabilities who needed assistance getting to shelter?**
- **Did you have personnel in the building who did not know the location of the shelter?**
- **What problems, if any, did you encounter in moving everyone to shelter?**
- **Were the shelter areas large enough to accommodate evacuees?**
- **In your shelter, did you receive the all clear message promptly?**
- **Via what medium did you receive the all clear?**

THANK YOU!

[CLICK HERE](#) to register your completion of this training module.

Wichita State University appreciates your dedication and service to ensuring we are ready to react should any type of emergency occur at WSU.