



General Campus Emergency Procedures

Tornado

Definition:

A violent, rotating column of air which is in contact with both the surface of the earth and a cumulonimbus storm cloud or, in rare cases, the base of a cumulus cloud.

Introduction:

The potential for tornadoes and other cyclonic storms presents the possibility of death or serious bodily injury to members of the campus community. No storm can be predicted with absolute certainty of time, severity, or direction of travel. The earliest possible warning of potentially dangerous storms and quickly taking precautions are the best way to reduce injury and death from a tornado.

Key Terms:

Tornado Watch – conditions are favorable for a tornado to form.

Tornado Warning - a tornado has actually been sighted somewhere in the warning area or is imminent based on radar.

Procedures:

If a tornado warning is issued in your area:

- Go to a pre-designated shelter area, i.e. safe room or interior hallway of the lowest level of the building. If you can't get to the lowest level, go to the inside wall of your classroom or office, as far away from doors and windows as possible and take shelter underneath your desk or any heavy furniture available.
 - Avoid auditoriums, gymnasiums or other structures with wide, free-span roofs.
 - Evacuate mobile/modular units.
- Stay away from corners, windows, doors, and outside walls.
- Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside.
- Use your arms to protect your head and neck.
- If outdoors lie flat in a ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands. Be aware of the potential for flooding.
- DO NOT take cover under an overpass or bridge.
- Never try to outrun a tornado in urban or congested areas. Take cover immediately.
- Be aware of flying debris. Flying debris from tornadoes causes most fatalities and injuries.

