

Procedure 2.1.2.8 Administrative: Severe Weather Procedures

**TRI-COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**ADMINISTRATIVE
SEVERE WEATHER PROCEDURES**

**PROCEDURE
2.1.2.8**

TORNADO: Every year about a thousand tornadoes touch down in the United States. Only a small percentage usually strike occupied buildings, but every year a number of people are killed or injured. Winds of 200-300 mph can occur with the most violent tornadoes. You can greatly reduce the chance of injury by doing a few simple things:

Weather is monitored on campus during impending severe weather. Administrative personnel will announce actions that should be taken when a tornado “watch” or “warning” is issued. Due to the absence of a public address system on campus, management will give verbal directions. It is imperative that staff and faculty assist by directing students and visitors to safe areas.

Be alert to what is happening outside. The following danger signs may be an indication that a tornado is imminent:

- A. A greenish or greenish-black color to the sky.
- B. If there is a watch or warning posted, then the fall of hail should be considered a real danger sign.
- C. A strange quiet that occurs within or shortly after a thunderstorm.
- D. Clouds moving by very fast, especially in a rotating pattern or converging toward one area of sky.
- E. A waterfall sound or rushing air at first, but turning into a roar as it comes closer. The sound of a tornado has been likened to that of both railroad trains and jets.
- F. Debris falling from the sky.
- G. An obvious “funnel-shaped” cloud that is rotating or debris such as branches or leaves being pulled upwards.

It is extremely important that the following guidelines for protection be followed in the event of an actual tornado.

Follow plan A or B according to the situation when college is in session and students are on campus. In the event that the college is notified that either a tornado warning is in effect or a tornado watch has been declared, all staff should be aware of the following:

PLAN A - TORNADO WATCH (Tornado is probable) is received:

1. The administration and the Director of Facilities will monitor weather reports during periods of threatening weather conditions and be alert for any tornado alerts.
 - A. Employees of the College are encouraged to use weather apps to monitor weather conditions.
 - B. Instructors will continue regular classroom activities.
 - C. The weather reports will continue to be monitored.
 - D. Classes will be dismissed at the normal hour in the regular manner if no further watches or warnings are issued.

PLAN B - TORNADO WARNING (A Tornado has actually been sighted in person or by radar indication) is received:

1. The administration and the Director of Facilities will monitor weather reports during periods of threatening weather conditions and be alert for any tornado alerts.
 - A. As soon as a WARNING is issued, all College personnel will be notified via text, intercom, and other means as needed.
 - B. All staff, faculty, and students will immediately proceed to designated areas as follows:

IN CASE OF A TORNADO WARNING ALL STAFF, FACULTY, AND STUDENTS SHOULD IMMEDIATELY PROCEED TO DESIGNATED AREAS AS FOLLOWS:

BUILDING	DESIGNATED AREA
ALLIED HEALTH	Lab 312 against wall that backs up to restrooms or in rest room
AUTOMOTIVE	Proceed to the West Building ASAP and then proceed to the ha outside rooms 106 and 107 and/or in the Men/Women Restroom
C.C.A.T. (Marble):	Proceed to the nearest restroom location. Stay away from wind
CRISP	The hallway between the GED offices and Cosmetology and/or Men/Women Restrooms
CULINARY	Restroom area or dry storage area
EARLY COLLEGE MOBILE UNITS	Inside the Telecenter
ENLOE	The hallway outside the nursing department and/or Men/Wome Restrooms. Room 133 is also a good location
FIRE TRAINING CTR	Under stairs in burn building
HARPER	The back hallway area around the staff offices or Restrooms
HARPER/ADMIN	Lower end of hallway near lobby toward Harper Building
MCSWAIN	The hallway outside the IT Department in the "66" Annex and/ Men/Women Restrooms
PATTERSON / TELECENTER	Restrooms
PHILLIPS	Main hallway between classrooms
SHIPPING/RECEIVING BOOKSTORE	Cage in warehouse or culinary dry storage
SHOPE	The hallway behind the receptionist's desk
WEST	The hallway outside rooms 106 and 107 and/or Men/Women Restrooms
CNA (GCC)	Restrooms

Put as many walls as possible between yourself and the tornado. The safest areas are generally **NEAR GROUND LEVEL, NEAR THE CENTRAL INTERIOR OF THE BUILDING, OR UNDERNEATH STURDY FURNITURE, AWAY FROM FURNITURE.**

The Vice President for College and Community Initiatives will be responsible for putting a message on the answering machine, which will inform callers of the emergency situation. The Vice President for College and Community Initiatives shall call WKRK Radio (1320AM) and WCVP (600AM) and inform them that the college faculty, staff, and students have taken cover in storm shelter areas until the storm passes. In addition, they will be informed that College phones will be temporarily out of service, but will be operative after the storm warning is lifted. Graham County Operations administration will be responsible for following the same procedures (listed above) in Graham County.

Adopted: 9/21/18 TCCC Safety Committee; 11/8/18 BOT