

1. Purpose:

An awareness of the weather and an understanding of the difference between a WEATHER WATCH (possible storms in the next six hours) and a WEATHER WARNING (expected event within the next two hours) are crucial in the event of a Tornado in your area.

2. Tornado Drills

Regular tornado drills should be included as part of evacuation exercised. Drills should regularly simulate emergencies such as jammed doors, blocked hallways and stairwells.

3. Tornado Response Procedure:

a) The principal should:

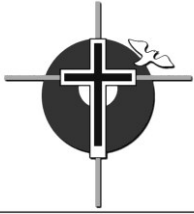
- i) Communicate the presence of a tornado warning in your area to your Superintendent.
- ii) Not permit the departure of school buses if a tornado warning is in effect.
- iii) Not ring the fire alarm as this indicates you want them to leave the building.

b) Recommended procedures for a teacher and class of students:

- i) Keep the students in the school.
- ii) Keep away from windows, doors and outside walls.
- iii) ASSUME “CRASH” POSITION on knees against the wall, students should protect their heads.
- iv) Students should get out of unsupported roof areas such as gymnasiums, auditoriums and sky lights.
- v) All students and staff in portables should come into the main building.
- vi) The safest location will be a central hallway on the ground floor. Stay away from ends of hallways with doors and windows.
- vii) Open all windows to prevent glass from imploding into the room.
- viii) Close all doors behind you as you move toward the centre of the building.

* If students and staff are outdoors when the tornado strikes and are unable to get to the safety of the building in time, find a ditch, ravine or other depression and lie flat. If there is no depression, hold onto the base of a small tree or shrub.

* If you are traveling on the school bus the driver will pull over and escort students to a nearby ditch where they will lie face down with their hands covering their heads.



Students should:

1. STAY inside the school
2. Keep away from windows, doors, and outside walls
3. Assume “crash” positions

Teachers should:

1. Have your staff/class list ready to ensure all students are accounted for
2. Review procedures/positions with students (you have time if you know it’s coming)
3. Remain in the sheltered area until the storm passes (heavy furniture provides good protection)
4. Before exiting check for injured persons

Copies of Emergency Preparedness Procedure Flip Chart “Shelter in Place is posted for each teacher in their classroom.

Procedures

1. Remain in place; exit the building when directed by emergency services.
2. Advise emergency personnel of any injuries that have been sustained.
3. Refer to emergency services for direction on where to go after the tornado passes.
4. Check all class lists and follow the procedures as identified in the emergency preparedness manual.