

# Procedures for Severe Weather

Tornadoes and thunderstorms are natural disasters that frequent our area during the spring and summer months, and we all should be prepared for the possibility that they may hit the Bethel campus. It is important that, when sirens or alarms sound, people are aware of what action must be taken. In the event of a tornado, the intercom system or blow horns will inform people of the need to take shelter. Below is some information that will be helpful in getting us all ready to "weather the storms." Please read through this information carefully and review it with students and colleagues in your areas of responsibility.

## ***Tornado Danger Signs:***

- Most tornadoes strike in the late afternoon and evening hours.
- An approaching cloud of debris can indicate the presence of a tornado even if a funnel is not visible.
- Before a tornado hits, the wind may die down and the air may become very still.
- Tornadoes generally occur near the trailing edge of a thunderstorm. It is not uncommon to see clear, sunlit skies behind a tornado.

## ***Levels of Tornado Weather Alertness***

1. **Tornado Watch** - Conditions are favorable for the development of a tornado. Sirens usually do not sound during a watch. People are expected to stay alert to possible weather changes.
2. **Tornado Warning** - A tornado has been sighted or identified by radar.
3. **Take shelter immediately** - Remember that tornadoes can form quickly; therefore, be prepared in the event of severe thunderstorms.

## ***In the event of a Tornado Warning:***

1. Go to your designated storm shelter area as found in the Storm Shelter Assembly Area List. If these are not available, find a small room at the lowest level and in the center of the building. Bathrooms, closets, and under basement stairwells are good potential shelters. Avoid all rooms with windows.
2. Move away from windows, large mirrors, and exterior doors.
3. Get under sturdy furniture or stairs.
4. If possible, wrap yourself in a sleeping bag or blanket.
5. Bring a flashlight and a radio if available.
6. If outside and no protection is available, lie flat and put your arms over your head.
7. If driving, park your car and SEEK SHELTER AWAY FROM THE CAR in a nearby ditch. Avoid areas with power lines, poles or signs.
8. After the tornado, watch for hazards such as damaged buildings, downed power lines and other dangerous wreckage.

## **Safety Shelters (e.g., *storm shelters*)**

### **Residence Halls**

#### **Freshman Hill (Bodien, Edgren, Getsch)**

Assemble in basement lounges.

#### **Arden Village East and West**

Evacuate to the college buildings in the basement of the HC down by the Post Office. Enter in between the HC and CC buildings and go down the stairs near the Nursing Department.

**Nelson Hall**

Assemble in the basement boiler room or the laundry rooms and hallways on the 1st floor.

**Heritage Hall**

Assemble in the basement boiler room or the hallways on the 1st floor. *Do not find shelter in the stairwells.*

**Lissner Hall**

Assemble in the 1st floor of your building in the hallway, away from windows.

**Chalberg Hall**

Assemble in the basement laundry and storage areas.

**Fountain Terrace Apartment Complex**

Assemble in the 1st floor of your building in the common area.

**Seminary Village Apartments**

Assemble in the 1st floor of your building in the hallway, away from windows.

**Academic Buildings****College Buildings**

- These include the Community Life Center, Academic Center, Brushaber Commons, Clausen Center, Hagstrom Student Services Center, and Robertson Center
- All lower level hallways and tunnels
- Classrooms without windows in the center of the lowest level of each building
- CLC classrooms: CLC134, CLC148, and adjoining hallway CC112

**Seminary Buildings**

Assemble in basement levels of the library and chapel.

**Bethel Office Center**

Assemble on the 1st floor of the building in hallways, away from windows and away from the southwest corner of the building.

**Red Fox Office Center**

Assemble away from windows in the center hallways.

***Security & Safety Officers are available 24 hours a day. Phone: 651-638-6055***