

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES GUIDE

TORNADOES

STATEMENT: In the event the National Weather Service issues a TORNADO WARNING for Clark County, the Police Division will send a text message alert. When a tornado is coming, you may have only moments to make a life or death decision. Advance planning is the key to surviving a tornado. All members of the Wittenberg Community are strongly encouraged to identify the best take-cover location for their own residences and the buildings they work in.

DEFINITIONS:

Tornado watch - means the atmospheric conditions are right for a tornado to develop. You should stay near the radio or TV to listen for more information about the situation.

Tornado warning - means that a tornado has been spotted or that [Doppler radar](#) indicates a thunderstorm circulation which can spawn a tornado. When a tornado warning is issued for your town or county, take immediate [safety](#) precautions.

PROCEDURE:

If you are Outdoors:

- Attempt to seek inside shelter if it is close by. If not, lie in a low-lying ditch, culvert, etc. Cover your face and head.

If Inside of a Building:

- Proceed to a below-ground level floor if possible, or get to the center portion of the building inside of a closet, bathroom, hallway, or under a doorway or other structural support.
- Stay away from windows, book shelves, and other unsecured objects that might fall on top of you.
- Cover yourself with anything available that may provide protection from falling or flying objects.
- Stay in place until an all clear message is received or rescuers get to you.

If You're in a Car:

Either leave the vehicle for sturdy shelter or drive out of the tornado's path. When the traffic is jammed or the tornado is bearing down on you at close range, your only option may be to park safely off the traffic lanes, get out and find a sturdy building for shelter, if possible. If not, lie flat in a low spot, as far from the road as possible (to avoid flying vehicles). However, in open country, the best option is to escape if the tornado is far away.

Tornado Shelter Locations inside of Campus Buildings:

Residence Halls:

- Campus Ministry – SW corner of the basement
- Ferncliff – First floor hallway with doors closed (away from lounge windows)
- Firestone – First floor hallway with doors closed and campus radio station area and offices.
- Keller Place Apartments – Bathrooms in all apartments
- Myers – Basement laundry room and room 111 and the interior adjacent
- New Hall – First floor bathrooms
- Polis – Laundry room
- Sprecher Place Apartments – Bathrooms in all apartments
- Tower – Basement hallway by elevator
- Woodlawn – First floor hallway between student rooms with hallway doors shut

Administrative and Academic buildings:

- 49 & 51 E. College St. – Interior hallway away from windows
- Barbara Deer Kuss Science Center – Basement hallway in old building
- Bayley Alumni House – Basement interior storage rooms (copier room)
- Bayley-Diehl House – Basement away from windows
- Benham-Prince Student Center – Basement hallway by mechanical rooms
- Benjamin Prince House – Basement
- Blair Hall – Basement hallway with all doors shut
- Carnegie Hall – Basement hallway north and south sides not in front of main entrance
- Center for the Arts (Art Center) – Restrooms and/or East to West hallway between lobby and loading dock
- Center for Civic and Urban Engagement (Hagen Center) - Basement
- Chakeres Memorial Theatre – Truck storage room and hallway near elevators
- Edwards-Maurer field – HPE practice football field
- Health, Physical Education and recreation Center – Hallway near pool
- Hollenbeck Hall – Basement storage area
- Koch Hall – Basement hallway
- Krieg Hall – Basement hallways
- Matthies Honors House – Basement away from windows
- Morris J. Knauss Greens Student residences (Faculty Court) – Basement
- Peace Center –SW corner of basement
- Facilities building – Basement south east corner
- Recitation Hall – Basement with all doors shut
- Dietrich House – Basement away from windows
- Shouplin Center- Basement
- Synod Hall – Basement hallway near restrooms
- Thomas Library – Basement computer area
- Weaver Chapel – Basement near stairway
- Weaver Observatory – Basement away from all windows (ammunal storage room)
- William A. McClain Center for Diversity – Basement away from windows

- Zimmerman Hall – Basement hallway near lab/restroom area

Non- Residence Hall Locations

In all cases, move to the center of the building, on the lowest floor, and stay away from glass.

In a house with a basement: Avoid windows. Get in the basement and under some kind of sturdy protection (heavy table or workbench), or cover yourself with a mattress or sleeping bag. Know where very heavy objects rest on the floor above (pianos, refrigerators, waterbeds, etc.) and do not go under them. They may fall down through a weakened floor and crush you. Head protection, such as a helmet, can offer some protection also.

In a house with no basement, a residence hall, or an apartment: Avoid windows. Go to the lowest floor, small center room (like a bathroom or closet), under a stairwell, or in an interior hallway with no windows. Crouch as low as possible to the floor, facing down; and cover your head with your hands. A bathtub may offer a shell of partial protection. Even in an interior room, you should cover yourself with some sort of thick padding (mattress, blankets, etc.), to protect against falling debris in case the roof and ceiling fail. A helmet can offer some protection against head injury.

In an office building: Go directly to an enclosed, windowless area in the center of the building -- *away from glass* and on the lowest floor possible. Then, crouch down and cover your head. Interior stairwells are usually good places to take shelter, and if not crowded, allow you to get to a lower level quickly. Stay off the elevators; you could be trapped in them if the power is lost.

At school: Follow the drill! Go to the interior hall or windowless room in an orderly way as you are told. Crouch low, head down, and protect the back of your head with your arms. Stay away from windows and large open rooms like gyms and auditoriums.

In a car or truck: Vehicles are extremely risky in a tornado. There is no safe option when caught in a tornado in a car, just slightly less-dangerous ones. If the tornado is visible, far away, and the traffic is light, you may be able to drive out of its path by moving at right angles to the tornado. Seek shelter in a sturdy building, or underground if possible. If you are caught by extreme winds or flying debris, park the car as quickly and safely as possible -- out of the traffic lanes. Stay in the car with the seat belt on. Put your head down below the windows; cover your head with your hands and a blanket, coat, or other cushion if possible. If you can safely get noticeably lower than the level of the roadway, leave your car and lie in that area, covering your head with your hands. Avoid seeking shelter under bridges, which can create deadly traffic hazards while offering little protection against flying debris.

In the open outdoors: If possible, seek shelter in a sturdy building. If not, lay flat and face down on low ground, protecting the back of your head with your arms. Get as far away from trees and cars as you can; they may be blown onto you in a tornado.

Things to Avoid:

- Wide expanse ceilings (avoid auditoriums, the dining room, and large conference areas). A long span building, such as a shopping mall, theater, or gymnasium is especially dangerous because the roof structure is usually supported solely by the outside walls. Most buildings hit by tornadoes cannot withstand the enormous pressure. They simply collapse. If there is no time to get to a tornado shelter or to a lower level, try to get under a door frame or get up against something that will support or deflect falling debris.
- Avoid areas with large amounts of debris.
- Large open areas.
- Windows and display cases.
- Do not use elevators because the power may fail, leaving you trapped.