

Be Prepared

Your actions before and during severe weather, including a tornado, may save lives. No matter where you are on campus, do some advance planning for threatening storms. This resource guide will help you identify protective areas in each building on campus where you can quickly take shelter when severe weather threatens.

Watch vs. Warning

A **tornado watch** means conditions are favorable for a tornado in our area.

- Remain alert for approaching storms
- Listen to local radio or TV for updates
- Be prepared to move to shelter

A **tornado warning** means a tornado has been sighted or is indicated by weather radar. Take shelter.

Tornado Sirens

Douglas County performs a monthly tornado siren test on the first Wednesday of the month at 11 a.m. unless severe weather is threatening the area. Remember, tornado sirens are an outdoor warning system only. They are not designed to warn people indoors.

Douglas, Sarpy and Washington counties sound the tornado warning sirens if the National Weather Service issues a tornado warning for any area within the boundaries of their respective county.

Dodge County notifies all the cities and towns' fire departments of the National Weather Service issuing a tornado warning. Each fire department is responsible for sounding the tornado warning for their city/town.

Campus Alert System

Each MCC location has designated employees to alert staff, students and visitors of severe weather and assist/direct them to the appropriate shelter location.

Public Safety has distributed weather radios to all campus/center buildings. These radios are capable of receiving continuous broadcasts of updated weather warnings issued by the National Weather Service. (The radios must be on in order to receive the signal from the National Weather Service.)

The battery-operated weather radio can be taken to the shelter area. It is recommended that you stay in the designated shelter area until you are notified that it is safe to return to offices, classrooms or dorm rooms.

At those locations staffed by Public Safety personnel, they will begin the notification process when severe weather threatens that particular MCC location. At other locations, faculty, staff and students will be alerted by pre-designated employees.

Regardless of your location, you can seek shelter if you choose to do so prior to any official notification. Public Safety will not force anyone to seek shelter that chooses to ignore official warnings.

Building Shelter Areas

Severe weather shelter areas have been identified in each campus/center building. These locations are identified on signage posted in classrooms and offices. The maps also can be found at:

<http://www.mccneb.edu/resourcerequest/>

After clicking the link, shelter designation maps appear under the heading "Campus Info" on the left side of the page. Each campus has a folder that can be expanded, and the maps are clearly labeled for each location. (Sarpy Center maps are distributed to staff internally). You are strongly encouraged to familiarize yourself with these maps prior to a severe weather event.

Procedures

If you're indoors:

- Go immediately to the shelter areas indicated in each building
- *Do not* pull the fire alarm
- Stay away from windows and glass
- Stay in your shelter area until the storm has passed and you are advised that it is safe to leave the building or return to classrooms or offices

If you're outside:

- If possible, get inside a building at once
- If you can't get to a shelter, lie in a ditch or low-lying area and use your hands to cover your head
- Be aware of the potential for flying debris and flooding and stay away from glass, small buildings and fencing
- If you are in a vehicle, get out and into a building or, if there is no time, lie in a ditch or other low-lying area

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Contacts:

Concerning Title VI (race), Title IX (gender equity), Section 504 (disability) and Americans with Disabilities Act/Program and Services Accessibility, and Age, contact:

Vice President for Campuses and Student Affairs: (402) 457-2681 (students)

Associate Vice President of Human Resources: (402) 457-2236 (employees)

Director of Facilities: (402) 457-2529 (accessibility)

Concerning hiring and employment-related complaints of discrimination or harassment based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, marital status, age, disability, sexual orientation, retaliation or for affirmative action and diversity issues, contact:

Associate Vice President for Equity and Diversity: (402) 457-2649

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Severe Weather

“The safety of students, faculty, staff and visitors is a top priority at Metropolitan Community College.”

David J. Friend
Police Chief