

Tornado Watch/Warning

Tornado Watch: Issued by the local National Weather Service (NWS) when conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes in and close to the watch area.

Tornado Warning: Issued by the local NWS when a tornado is indicated by the WSR-88D radar or sighted by spotters. If a warning is issued:

- For those University buildings equipped with voice emergency warning systems, a weather emergency take cover message will be activated when the Lawrence sirens have been activated.
- Move immediately to a pre-designated shelter area such as a safe room, basement, storm cellar or the lowest building level.
- If there is no basement, go to the center of an interior room on the lowest level (closet or interior hallway) away from corners, windows, doors and outside walls.
- Put as many walls between you and the outside. If available, get under a sturdy table or piece of furniture and always protect your head and neck with your arms.
- Remain there until the all clear is given by local radio stations (KANU/KLWN), police or other official sources of information. In University buildings equipped with voice emergency warning systems, an all-clear message will be activated when an official all-clear has been issued for Lawrence.
- If you are outside when a tornado warning is issued and/or the sirens are sounding, take cover in a pre-designated shelter or the lowest level of a building. If those are not accessible, lie in a ditch or depression away from trees and power lines and cover your head with your hands.

If you are driving a vehicle, abandon the vehicle. Move into a pre-designated shelter or lowest level of a building. If a suitable structure is not available, lie down in a ditch or depression but be aware of flash flooding due to rain that may accompany a tornado.

Siren Procedures

Siren testing:

The Douglas County Emergency Management Office tests the outdoor warning siren system on a regular basis. The test occurs at noon on the first Monday during the months of August-February and on the first and third Monday during the months of March-July. Tests are cancelled for potential or occurring severe weather and in the event of extreme cold or ice on the sirens.

In March, siren activation is done as part of a statewide tornado drill in conjunction with Severe Weather Awareness Week. These drills are typically conducted on Tuesday or Thursday afternoon.

Sounding of sirens:

The outdoor warning sirens for any or all of the cities in Douglas County are activated when the National Weather Service issues a "tornado warning" or when a local determination is made that a tornado threat to the area exists. This determination is made by Douglas County Emergency Management staff and will be based upon evaluation of all available information. This may include, but is not limited to, National Weather Service watch and/or warning text, weather radar and reports from trained weather spotters or law enforcement officers. Anytime you hear the sirens sound, it means to take immediate safety precautions.

Listen to a NOAA weather radio or local media for updates. **There is NO all-clear siren.**

If circumstances warrant, general information can be obtained from the following sources:

- While emergency conditions exist, 864-SNOW is used for emergency information year-round.
- KU Info, 864-3506
- University radio stations KJHK 90.7 and KANU 91.5 will broadcast information specific to campus. Local radio (KLWN 1320AM) and TV stations do provide on-going community emergency information.
- Under limited circumstances, the University may use JayTalk, and other electronic means to provide post-emergency information.

If you have any additional concerns or questions on how to react to a certain weather condition, please refer to:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/safety.php>

Douglas County watches, warnings, and advisories:

http://www.douglascounty.com/online_services/wather_roads/weather_roads.aspx

Related information regarding cancellation of classes and/or closing the University:

<http://www.alerts.ku.edu/weather.shtml>

If you have any questions, please call the Community Services Section of the KU Public Safety Office at 864-5900, email us at kupso@ku.edu or visit our home page at: <http://www.publicsafety.ku.edu/>

The annual security report about KU safety policies, crime statistics, and campus resources is available online at www.ku.edu/safety, or on paper by contacting the Office of the Vice Provost for Student Affairs, 133 Strong Hall, (785) 864-4060.

KU prohibits discrimination and harassment. Report discrimination and harassment to the Office of Institutional Opportunity and Access at IOA@ku.edu or (785) 864-6414, 711 TTY



Revised 04/14

Weather Emergencies



Severe Thunderstorm

Severe Thunderstorm Watch: Issued by the NWS whenever conditions are favorable for the development of severe thunderstorms in and close to the watch area.

Severe Thunderstorm Warning: Issued by the NWS when a severe thunderstorm is indicated by the WSR-88D radar or spotter reports a thunderstorm producing hail at least $\frac{3}{4}$ inch and/or 58 mph winds.

Severe thunderstorms are likely to produce flash flooding, hail and lightning. Also, be aware that severe thunderstorms can produce tornadoes with little or no advanced warning.

- Be alert to the possibility of high winds and/or hail. Also, be aware that severe thunderstorms can produce tornadoes with little or no advanced warning.
- Should a storm develop, move away from windows exposed to the impact of high winds into a protected area of a hallway or interior room until the danger is past.
- If you have a disability and need help getting to a lower level for safety in a KU building, proceed to an area of rescue and activate the system. If you are unable to make it to an area of rescue, call 911 for assistance.
- KU Public Safety recommends that all persons have a NOAA All-Hazard Weather Radio, which transmits all watch and warning information directly from the National Weather Service.

Snow/Ice Conditions

- In snow, ice, or slush conditions, **SLOW DOWN**. Even 4-wheel drive vehicles may not be able to stop.
- Be aware of other motorists. Not everyone is used to Kansas weather and driving conditions.

- Avoid distractions. Keep focused on your driving and on the road.
 - Keep your vehicle fueled. If you are stranded, you may need to run your engine for heat.
 - Keep blankets, non-perishable food, and repair tools in your vehicle when traveling.
 - When walking, be cautious of slippery pavements and stairs. Always look for a hand hold.
 - If crossing a street, keep in mind that motorists may not be able to stop.
 - Dress appropriately for the weather to avoid frostbite. Hats, gloves, coats and warm shoes or boots are recommended.
- If lightning strikes near you:
 - Crouch down. Put feet together. Place hands over ears to minimize hearing damage from thunder.
 - Stay at least 15 feet from other people.

If someone is struck by lightning, they may need immediate medical attention. Lightning victims do not carry an electrical charge and are safe to touch. Call 911 and monitor the victim. Start CPR or use an Automated External Defibrillator, if needed.

Hail

Severe thunderstorms can produce hail. KU Public Safety Office offers the following tips:

Lightning

Lightning can precede severe thunderstorms. While it is fascinating to watch, it is extremely dangerous.

If you are inside:

- Stay away from doors and windows.
- Stay away from showers, sinks, and bath tubs.
- Do not use corded telephones.
- Turn off, unplug and stay away from appliances, computers, power tools and TV sets. Lightning may strike exterior electric and phone lines, inducing shocks to inside equipment.

If you are outside:

- You are not safe anywhere outside. Immediately find shelter in a substantial building or in a fully enclosed metal vehicle such as a car, truck or van with windows completely shut.
 - Avoid canopies, small picnic or rain shelters and trees.
 - Avoid water, high ground and open spaces.
 - Avoid metal objects including electric wires, fences, machinery, motors, power tools, etc.
 - Do not use umbrellas when lightning is near.
- If you are in a car:
 - Turn on your headlights (low beams) and slow down.
 - Approach intersections with caution and avoid downed power lines.
 - If possible, pull into a sturdy garage or parking garage. An awning, gas station overhang or an unexposed side of a building can also offer protection.
 - Stay in the car and turn on emergency flashers until the heavy rains subside.

- Vehicles offer good protection from hail up to about golf-ball size. Significant windshield and body damage can result with hail larger than golf-balls.
- Carry a blanket in your car to protect yourself from shattered windshields.

Flash Flooding

Flooding of streets and roadways may occur when an unusually heavy amount of rain falls within a short period of time. If this occurs:

- Do not drive through flooded areas. Water only a foot deep can displace a 1500 lb. vehicle.
- If the vehicle stalls, leave it immediately and seek higher ground.
- Do not walk in flowing water that is above your knees.
- Be especially cautious at night. It is harder to recognize water danger when it is dark.
- Do not play in flooded areas.

If flooding occurs in a building:

- Notify the Public Safety Office.
- If you can do so safely:
 - Secure vital equipment, records and hazardous materials by moving them to higher, safer ground.
 - Shut off all non-essential electrical equipment.
 - Wait for instructions from Public Safety or Facilities Operations.
- Move all personnel to a safe area, away from the building in danger. Locate people with special needs and provide assistance, if possible. Otherwise, provide their location to emergency responders.
- Do not return to the building until instructed to do so by Public Safety Office or Facilities Operations.