

# TORNADO

## Description

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A **tornado watch** means tornadoes are possible in and near the watch area. During a tornado watch, staff should be alert to weather conditions.

A **tornado warning** means that a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. There is imminent danger to life and property. Move to an interior room on the lowest floor of a sturdy building. Avoid windows.

## Immediate Action

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- Remain calm and avoid panic
- Go to an area of safety
  - Rooms and corridors in the innermost part of a building
  - Avoid windows, corridors with windows or large freestanding expanses
- There is no guaranteed safe place during a tornado. However, it is important to seek shelter in the best location to help minimize your exposure.
- DO NOT use elevators during a tornado warning.
- Persons with mobility concerns should go to an area of safety at the time of a tornado watch. DO NOT wait for a tornado warning.
- Close all doors, including main corridors, making sure they latch.
- Crouch near the floor or under heavy, well-supported objects and cover your head.
- If outside, lie down in a low-lying ditch and cover your head.
- Be alert for fire.
  - In the event of a fire, the fire plan should be utilized

## Decision

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If a tornado actually affects any of the University of Virginia buildings, the decision to return to your workspace or vacate the affected building(s) will be made by the Chief of Police or designee in consultation with the EVP/COO and Facilities Management.

## Subsequent Procedures / Information

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Your first concern after a disaster is your health and safety. You need to consider possible safety issues and monitor health and well-being.

### **Aiding the Injured**

- Check for injuries and call 911 if medical help is needed.
- Do not attempt to move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger of death or further injury.
- If you must move an unconscious person, first stabilize the neck and back, then call for help.

### **Safety Issues**

- Be aware of new safety issues created by the disaster. Watch for debris, leaking hazardous materials, gas leaks, broken glass, damaged electrical wiring, and injured animals.
- Inform local authorities about health and safety issues, including chemical spills, downed power lines, smoldering insulation, and dead animals.