

# TORNADO SAFETY PROCEDURES

## Tornado Season

Ohio is positioned on the eastern edge of what is known as “tornado alley” and experiences an average of 16 tornadoes each year. The peak tornado season in Ohio runs from April to July, with most tornadoes occurring between 2pm and 10pm. While this is established as “tornado season” for Ohio, history has proven that tornadoes can occur during any month of the year and at any time of the day or night. Following is important information on what the UF community, visitors and event attendees need to know about tornadoes and the UF campus.

## Tornado Watch

A Tornado Watch is issued by the National Weather Service and means conditions are favorable for a tornado to develop. You are expected to be alert to changing weather situations and be prepared to take action if upgraded to a warning.

The University of Findlay will notify faculty/staff, students, visitors and event attendees of a Tornado Watch through the Oiler Alert text messaging system and the Via Radio units (white boxes with LED screens mounted on the wall). Once the Tornado Watch has been lifted, UF will announce the “all clear” through these methods as well. During a Tornado Watch, you should:

- Be alert for approaching storms.
- Listen for the activation of any UF or county-wide notification systems or sirens that indicate the weather situation is worsening.
- Continue with classes, exams and University business/operations in the absence of siren activation.

## Tornado Warning

A Tornado Warning is issued by the National Weather Service and means a tornado has been spotted in the immediate area or is indicated on weather radar. UF will notify students, faculty/staff, visitors and event attendees of the warning through the Oiler Alert text message system and the Via Radio wall units. The Hancock County Sheriff's Department will sound the tornado sirens throughout the city and county.

However, it is very important for the campus community, visitors and event attendees to follow threatening and/or approaching weather since there will be instances when storms appear so quickly that there will not be sufficient time to send out an alert. In the event of a Tornado Warning; students, faculty/staff, visitors and event attendees are expected to take the following actions:

- Take shelter IMMEDIATELY in a basement or lower floor interior room, hallway or corridor.
- If time does not permit moving to a lower level, move to a bathroom area, closet or other interior room or hallway and take cover. Stay away from windows.
- Get under a sturdy workbench or heavy furniture (i.e. table or desk), if available.
- Stay away from windows and areas with a large expanse of glass.
- Avoid auditoriums, gymnasiums, and other large rooms with free-span roofs and automobiles.
- **DO NOT USE ELEVATORS. DO NOT PANIC.**
- If persons with disabilities cannot safely move to the lowest level, assist them to an interior hallway away from windows and areas with a large expanse of glass.
- If possible, take a battery-powered radio with you to monitor news about the tornado.
- If you are outside and unable to get to a building for protection, move away from the tornado's path at a right angle. If there is no time to escape, lie flat in the nearest depression (i.e. ditch or ravine).
- Use your arms to protect your head and neck.
- **Stay in a safe area until the all clear is sounded via UF emergency notification systems, UF Security, local law enforcement or other appropriate means.**