

# Campus Community Preparedness-TORNADO



## Outdoor Warning Sirens

**Outdoor warning sirens** are used to warn the public of an approaching hazard, one of them being to warn against a possible tornado in the immediate area. Since tornado season is officially upon us, it is important to understand when outdoor warning signs are activated and what to do when you hear them.

Along with the City of Richardson's one siren located on campus, UT Dallas has its' own Outdoor Warning System consisting of three sirens with additional voice-command capabilities. These sirens will sound in conjunction with the City Outdoor Warning System with a constant tone for at least **3 minutes** when activated.

**Do I call 911 when I hear the siren?** **No, do not call 911** unless you have an actual emergency.

**What do I do when hearing the siren?**

- Take cover immediately in a small room, such as the bathroom or closet.
- Close all doors and stay away from exterior windows and doors.
- Monitor a battery operated or crank radio if possible.
- An all-clear message will be given over the UT Dallas Outdoor Warning System after the inclement weather has passed and it is safe to return to normal operations.
- If you are in a large building, go to the lowest floor possible and go to the most interior portion of the building.
- If you are in a hallway, get down low along the wall and cover your head or get under a table or chair.
- Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside and use your arms to protect your head and neck as much as possible.

### Tornado danger signs:

- Ⓜ Sometimes tornados happen quickly, without warning.
- Ⓜ Look for dark, often greenish colored sky, large hail, clouds and a loud roar similar to that of a train.
- Ⓜ It is very possible to see clear skies behind a tornado.
- Ⓜ It is also possible for the tornado to be hidden by rain and/or hail during a thunderstorm.
- Ⓜ Before the tornado hits, winds may die down and the air may become very still.
- Ⓜ Tornadoes usually occur between 3:00 pm and 9:00 pm, but can occur any time.
- Ⓜ Tornadoes usually travel from SW to NE.

### What supplies should I have at home that I might need during a blackout or disruption of services due to severe winds or tornadoes?

You need water, battery operated or "self powered" flashlights, a first aid kit, critical medicine, non-perishable food and a battery operated/crank radio at minimum.

If you put together a "Go Kit" it should be in your severe weather shelter area.

**A buddy system is encouraged** for staff members to ensure safety, accountability and search and rescue effort effectiveness.

\*It may prove beneficial to you to purchase a tone-alert, AC-DC weather radio that is designed to receive broadcasts from the National Weather Service for your home/office. Many sufficient radios are available at local retail stores.