



OFFICE OF RISK MANAGEMENT

PLEASE POST

To: All Deans, Directors, and Department Heads
From: Office of Risk Management
Subject: **TORNADO SAFETY**
Date: March 11, 2013

The tornado season has arrived and as a reminder we are requesting that you make the following instructions available throughout your respective units.

Most tornadoes occur during the months of April, May and June. Therefore, the following is brought to your attention:

1. **A TORNADO WATCH** is an alert that weather conditions are such that severe weather (tornado, thunderstorms) could develop in our general area. (The tornado watch alert provides the time to individually pre-plan what action should be taken in the event the tornado warning is sounded.)
2. **A TORNADO WARNING** means a tornado has been sighted in our general area and **ALL PERSONS** should take cover immediately.

NOTE: The local Detroit and Macomb and Oakland Counties siren will sound a 3 minute continuous blast for a **TORNADO WARNING**. It does **NOT** sound for a **TORNADO WATCH**.

When a tornado warning is in effect for our area:

- Move to the lower areas of University buildings.
- Seek shelter away from any potential sources of flying glass.
- Suggested shelter areas are basements, interior corridors, or under heavy tables or desks.
- Inner rooms such as closets and storage rooms are also recommended.
- If you are traveling in a vehicle and spot a tornado, you should, (1) attempt to seek shelter in a ditch or culvert or, (2) drive at right angles away from the tornado's path.
- Large open spaced areas such as atriums, gymnasiums and auditoriums are not recommended as suitable shelter locations.

Please refer to Tornado/Severe Weather section of Wayne State University Emergency and Safety procedures flipchart for more information.