

Summer Severe Weather Safety Precautions

Summer months in Saskatchewan are prone to inclement weather. The University of Regina community is reminded to be alert to the potential for severe weather and to be prepared to respond appropriately. As a reminder please review the procedures below.

Weather Watch

An advisement from Environment Canada indicating that a particular hazard is possible, i.e., that conditions are more favorable than usual for its occurrence. A watch is a recommendation for planning, preparation and increased awareness (i.e. to be alert for changing weather, listen for further information and think about what to do if danger materializes. Examples, - Tornado Watch, Severe Thunderstorm Watch).

Weather Warning

An advisement issued by Environment Canada forecast offices indicating that a particular weather hazard is either imminent or has been reported. A warning indicates the need to take action to protect life and property. Warnings are broadcast by the media, on the Weatheradio Canada System and by the Coast Guard. They are issued for snowstorms, blizzards, heavy blowing snow, heavy rains, frost, cold waves, freezing rain, severe thunderstorms and strong winds - according to thresholds established for regional and public needs. In the event Campus Security receives adequate notice that a Tornado Warning affecting the University of Regina has been issued or a Tornado has been sighted in close proximity to the University of Regina, Campus Security will utilize the U of R Emergency Notification System (ENS) to broadcast the following message.

Flooding Precautions

A heavy rain or spring runoff can result in flooding.

If you are inside

Move to higher areas of the building.

If flooding is contaminated with sewage, take precautions during clean up as advised by Public Health authorities.

Ensure drinking water is safe, contact local Public Health authorities as required.

If you are outside

Seek shelter.

Do not try to walk through flash floods.

Avoid driving during flash floods.

Hail Storm Precautions

Hail is a form of solid precipitation and composed of transparent ice. It is formed in strong thunderstorm clouds.

- If you are inside** Stay away from windows and glass doors.
Always be alert for high winds or the possibility of a tornado especially if the hail is of a large size.
- If you are outside** Seek cover from the hail facing away from the wind.
Protect your head.

Lightning Precautions

Lightning is an electrical discharge and tends to strike higher ground and prominent objects especially good conductors of electricity such as metal and water.

- If you are inside** Stay inside. Do not go outside unless absolutely necessary.
Unplug all electrical equipment prior to the storm if possible. Do not handle electrical equipment or telephones during the storm.
Keep away from doors, windows and fireplaces.
Do not take a bath, shower or work in water.
Do not use elevators.
Do not handle metal objects.
- If you are outside** Get inside a vehicle or building if possible.
If in a vehicle keep windows closed, stay parked in a safe spot away from power lines or other tall objects that may fall on the car during the storm.
Avoid water and objects that conduct electricity (e.g. tractor, golf clubs, metal fence, and bicycle).
If no shelter is available crouch down, feet close together with your head tucked down. If amongst a group of people, spread out, keeping people several meters apart.

Tornado Precautions

- If you are in an office or apartment building** Take shelter in an inner hallway or room, ideally in the basement or on the ground floor.
Do not use the elevator.
Stay away from windows.
- If you are in a house** Go to the basement or take shelter in a small interior ground floor room such as a bathroom, closet or hallway.
If you have no basement, protect yourself by taking shelter under a heavy table or desk.
In all cases, stay away from windows, outside walls and doors.

Avoid cars and mobile homes

More than half of all deaths from tornadoes happen in mobile homes.
Find shelter elsewhere, preferably in a building with a strong foundation.
If no shelter is available, lie down in a ditch away from the car or mobile home.
Beware of flooding from downpours and be prepared to move.

If you are driving

If you spot a tornado in the distance go to the nearest solid shelter.
If the tornado is close, get out of your car and take cover in a low-lying area, such as a ditch.

In all cases

Get as close to the ground as possible, protect your head and watch for flying debris.
Do not chase tornadoes they are unpredictable and can change course abruptly.
A tornado is deceptive. It may appear to be standing still but is, in fact, moving toward you.

Emergency Notification System (ENS):



In the event of a life threatening emergency other than a building fire, students, faculty and staff will receive an emergency message providing basic information about the type of emergency and safety instructions. The message will be broadcast on beacons, TV's, some building speaker systems across the U of R and computers loaded with Alertus software. For more information and details on how students, faculty and staff with non-Zenworks managed computers can sign up to register their computer to receive alerts, access the following link: <http://bit.ly/ENS-UofR>.

Please follow the directions on the emergency message and alert others in your immediate area.

Sample Emergency Message:

**TORNADO WARNING issued for Regina.
Remain indoors.
Take shelter in interior rooms or stairwells without windows.**

For more information on how to respond to Tornado's or other Emergencies visit the University of Regina "Emergency Preparedness Guide" <http://bit.ly/EP-guide>
The guide is also posted on walls and in offices throughout the University of Regina.

Information about any Emergency Conditions that exist at the University of Regina can be found on the University of Regina's Emergency Info page <http://www.uregina.ca/emergency/>

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