

Inclement Weather Warnings and Shelter Locations

The storm season for Arkansas generally runs from March through September with the strongest storms occurring during the spring of the year. Recent years have shown that violent storms can occur at any time. It is in everyone's best interest to be prepared for bad weather during any season.

The following is an explanation of weather warnings, procedures to be followed at Lyon College, and the location of shelter areas on campus.

1. Weather Warnings.

A. Thunderstorm Watch. Indicates that conditions exist that could produce a thunderstorm. This is the mildest weather warning, but could be an indicator of worsening weather conditions. The announcement of a Watch will include the areas affected and the duration of the condition.

B. Thunderstorm Warning. Indicates that a thunderstorm is imminent. A thunderstorm usually produces strong wind, lightning and heavy rain. As with a Watch, the area affected and the duration will be announced with the warning.

C. Tornado Watch. Indicates that conditions exist that could produce a tornado. At the issuance of a Tornado Watch, Campus Safety will notify each department and Student Life of the existence of the Watch and the duration. Local radio stations should be monitored for changing conditions.

D. Tornado Warning. Indicates that a tornado has been sighted. The warning will include the area affected and the projected path of the tornado. In the event of a Tornado Warning for the Batesville area everyone should move to a sheltered area of their building until the warning is over.

2. Emergency Alert system.

The campus has an emergency alert system in place that alerts the campus community thru text messaging to your phone and e-mail account when any emergency situation occurs including inclement weather. Please contact Information Services if you have questions about this service or need to check to be sure you are on the list. Independence County also has an alert system for that can be accessed by going to www.emergencyemail.org.

3. Shelter Areas.

A. Where not to be. Stay away from windows and large rooms (such as Nucor Auditorium and Brown Chapel). If you are outside go to low ground. Lie down in a ditch if necessary. If you are driving do not try to run from the tornado. Park your car and seek shelter in a ditch or solid structure. Leave any room in which chemicals are used or stored, such as labs in the Derby Center.

B. Designated Shelter Areas. By building, the following areas are the best places to be during a tornado.

Nichols: Restrooms, dark room, vault and closets.

Brown Chapel: Interior offices at the back of the chapel, first floor restrooms (front foyer), ladies restroom (back hallway), and the Bevens Kitchen.

Derby Science: Basement level interior hallway, storage rooms, and restrooms. First floor restrooms

Alphin Building: Kresge Gallery, first floor hallways and restrooms.

Lyon Building: First floor restrooms and hallways.

Mabee/Simpson Library: Mail room and Media center, or lower hallways away from the front doors.

Becknell Gym: Lower level offices, dressing rooms, and restrooms.

Admissions: Interior hallway, interior closets, and interior restrooms.

Holloway Theater: Interior hallways.

Morrow Quad: The hallway outside the nurses' office.

Maintenance: Restrooms and interior hall.

Spragins Hall: Lower level hallway.

Love/Bryan/Blandford Halls: Lower level hallways and lowest level of the stairwells.

Brown/Barton Apartments: Downstairs hallways and bathrooms.

McRae/Wilson & Rogers: Ground floor hallways and bathrooms.

Hoke/McCain: Ground floor hallways and restrooms.

Sturbridge Apartments: Restrooms and closets away from windows.

Student Houses: Restrooms and closets away from windows.

Temp Dining Hall: The walk-in freezer and cooler.

Baseball Facility: Interior closets and restrooms.

Campus Safety/Scottish Heritage/Bookstore: Leave trailers and seek shelter in other buildings.

Anyone living in houses or apartments that have time to seek shelter in a more secure area the lower level of the Becknell Gym will be used as an emergency shelter.

4. Nice to have items.

Power outages often occur when storms hit the area. The following items could come in handy in the event of power loss on campus.

Flashlight with extra batteries.

Battery powered radio.

Extra Blankets.

5. Information sources.

Campus Safety and Student Life members maintain weather alert radios and will notify campus residents of Tornado Watches and Warnings through the RA's and RD's. Local radio stations such as FM 93.1 or FM 99.5 as well as local television channel 2, KAIT, also provide up to the date weather information. Information on all emergency procedures can be found at www.lyon.edu/campussafety1.htm.