

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

4516 Monarch Way, Norfolk, VA 23508

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Weather Emergencies

When severe weather occurs, the administration will determine whether University offices will be closed. Check Old Dominion University's web page, call the University Switchboard 757-683-3000, or listen to local TV and radio news broadcasts for this information. Remember, weather emergencies can pose a serious threat, so always stay calm and alert!

General Guidance for Severe Weather-Related Emergencies

Follow these general recommendations if severe weather occurs:

- If weather conditions appear threatening, listen for a Watch or Warning through commercial radio, weather radio, and local television. The sirens on the Norfolk campus will be activated during a tornado warning.
- Keep a small, battery-operated radio on hand to listen to. It is a good way to stay informed.
- Use telephones for emergency calls only.
- Stay away from downed power lines. **DO NOT** handle live electrical equipment in wet areas.
- Leave the area immediately if you smell gas or vapors from chemicals.
- Help injured persons if you can do so without putting yourself at risk of injury. Provide first aid if you are trained. Report injuries by **CALLING 757-683-4000 (or 9-1-1 if off-campus)**. **DO NOT** move injured persons unless they are in immediate danger.
- Report damage on campus to Facilities Services or Risk Management.

What to Do When There Is a Severe Flood

Follow these recommendations if there is news of a flood in your area:

- Be prepared to shelter-in-place or to evacuate at a moment's notice.
- Be aware of streams, drainage channels, canyons, and other areas known to flood suddenly. Flash floods can occur in these areas with or without warning clouds or rain.
- Listen to area radio and television stations and a NOAA Weather Radio for possible flood warnings and reports of flooding in progress or other critical information from the National Weather Service.

What to Do When There Is a Tornado

Follow these recommendations if there is news of a tornado in your area:

- If you hear about a tornado in your area, **DO NOT** wait until you see it to take cover.

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- Seek indoor shelter in the lowest level possible, in an interior room or hallway away from windows and doors.
- Crouch near the floor or under heavy, well supported objects. Cover your head.
- Avoid windows, corridors with windows, or large free-standing expanses (such as auditoriums and cafeterias). **DO NOT** use elevators during a tornado warning!
- If you are caught outside with no shelter, lie flat in a ditch or depression and cover your head.
- Watch out for flying debris. Flying debris from tornadoes causes most fatalities and injuries.

What to Do When There Is a Hurricane

Follow these recommendations if there is news of a hurricane in your area:

- Follow the instructions of local emergency management personnel regarding evacuation.
- If hurricane conditions already exist outside your location, stay put! Find shelter as best you can and wait it out. The most violent conditions are likely to pass in 24 hours or less.
- Secure the space by shutting and locking all windows and doors.
- Try to locate supplies you may need - such as food, water, a radio, etc.

What to Do When There Is an Earthquake

Follow these recommendations if you experience an earthquake in your area:

- If indoors, drop to the ground and take cover by getting under a sturdy table or a piece of furniture. Hold on until the shaking stops.
- If there is not a table or desk near you, cover your face and head with your arms and crouch in an inside corner of the building.
- Stay away from anything that could fall, such as lighting fixtures or heavy bookcases.
- Use a doorway for shelter only if it is nearby and if you know it is a strongly supported.
- Stay inside until the shaking stops and it is safe to move about. Injuries most often occur when people inside buildings attempt to move during the earthquake. Beware of aftershocks.
- If you are outdoors, stay there. Move away from buildings, street lights, and utility wires.