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## **Tornadoes and Thunderstorms Policy**

**A tornado or thunderstorm watch means you should be prepared to take cover if threatening conditions are sighted. A tornado or thunderstorm warning is issued by the local National Weather Service facility, and means a tornado or severe thunderstorm is imminent. Persons close to the storm should take shelter immediately, and remain there until the danger has passed. Under a warning, individuals should be instructed to seek shelter in building interiors such as hallways, restrooms, interior classrooms, and to avoid windows, doors and large open areas such as gymnasiums and auditoriums.**

### **1. Severe Thunderstorm and Tornado Watch and Warning**

**A. The county's Emergency Preparedness office will monitor all weather conditions and report watches or warnings of any expected severe conditions through the emergency preparedness radio system at each location.**

### **Severe Weather Procedures-Evenings**

**If severe weather is threatening, the library director or, in the absence of the library director, the person responsible for the library should monitor the local media for notice of weather alerts.**

### **Shelter Areas**

**The library occupies a building of Iowa Lakes Community College and, as such, has been reviewed by a member of the Emergency Management Office. Shelter areas are posted throughout the building.**

### **Immediate Steps To Be Taken:**

**1. When a tornado warning is received, all persons are instructed to move to the nearest shelter area. A horn will be sounded throughout the library.**

2. Each staff member should close interior doors if time allows.
3. Persons should stay in shelter areas until the all clear is received and relayed to the shelter area by the person in charge. Staff will verbally give the all clear.

### **General Rules**

1. Safety of patrons is the first concern.
2. **Do not** leave the building. Although the library is not tornado proof, it affords more protection than any other buildings in the vicinity and offers more safety than an automobile.
3. Any protection over the head, such as an open book, a table or chair, might save a person from injury by a flying or falling object.
4. Keep away from open doors or windows.

### **Recovery**

1. All public library personnel should expect to assist in locating injured persons if needed; however, do not move a non-ambulatory victim until qualified medical or first aid personnel arrive.
2. The college buildings may be made available to the community, if needed, as emergency shelters or emergency hospitals.
3. Library staff may be asked to volunteer to serve on emergency clean-up or rescue teams

### **Publication & Notification**

1. A map designating the location of shelter areas is located in the library. Shelters are also identified by signage on the wall or room entrance.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees: July 2011; Reviewed: July 2014, May 2017, July 2020, May 2023; Scheduled for Review: April 2026