

Tornado Protocols



Policy Number: 06.008	Responsible Office: Public Safety	Governing Body: College Council	Last Review Date: 3/17/2022
Scope: This policy applies to Antioch College employees and students			

I. Introduction

- A. Due to the College's proximity to what is referred to as "Tornado Alley," I think it is important to share some safety tips in the event we find ourselves in a Tornado Warning or a live Tornado. Tornado Alley is just 8 miles from campus in Xenia. A couple of years ago we had a tornado touch down about 3 miles from campus.
- B. One of the features we have to help maintain the safety of the campus is our One-Call Now Emergency Alert System. You will be advised via email and text message to your personal cell phone as to the nature of expected emergencies and actual emergencies on campus. There will also be some information on what to do or where to go and possibly to Shelter-in-Place. During a tornado event, Shelter-in-place is the best option unless outside. If outside, make entry into the closest building to you. You will also be notified when the pending threat is over.
- C. Two (2) types of tornado alerts from the National Weather Service
 - 1. Tornado Watch: Tornadoes are possible in and near the "watch" area.
 - 2. Tornado Warning: A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. There is imminent danger to life and property.

II. Safety Practices during a Tornado Warning

- A. Never go outside during a tornado warning or actual tornado. Shelter-in-Place.
- B. Listen for tornado sirens operated by the county. These go into alarm for tornado warnings.
- C. Know where to go for safety. The rule of thumb is to always move to the lowest floor possible, away from glass windows and doors.
- D. You may also use smaller rooms such as closets, restrooms or interior halls. Again, make sure you are away from glass windows and doors.
- E. You can also get under heavy or sturdy furniture such as desks, workbench or heavy tables.
- F. Do not use elevators due to the possibility of power outages.
- G. Do not stay on the upper floor in case of a roof collapse.
- H. Do not leave the area until you get the "All Clear" from Public Safety via the Emergency Alert System.

- I. Call Public Safety (937-776-0660) regarding any injuries or inability to get to the shelter. **Please keep in mind that Public Safety staff will also be sheltering in place and will respond to calls once safe to do so.** Response may not be immediate for safety purposes.

III. Tornado Shelter Spaces by Building

- A. **McGregor Hall:** Please use the basement of McGregor for a shelter area or restrooms on the first floor.
- B. **South Hall:** Please use the basement area of the building for shelter. The elevator does not go to the basement. Stairwell must be used. Elevators also should not be used during a storm in case of a power outage.
- C. **North Hall:** Students and staff should exit their rooms and close their doors behind them and gather in the Hallways on the 2nd and 3rd floors. You should sit in the hallway away from the windows. Cover your head with your arms or bring a pillow to cover your head. You should sit facing the wall. If you have a pet, consider sheltering with them in the hallway. Please utilize a pet carrier or leashes if you have them.
- D. **Birch Hall:** Students and staff should exit their rooms and close their doors behind them and gather in the Hallway on the 2nd floor. You may also seek shelter in the hallway outside the laundry room, but not in the laundry room due to the windows in the room. You should sit in the hallway facing the wall away from the windows. Cover your head with your arms or bring a pillow to cover your head. If you have a pet, consider sheltering with them in the hallway. Please utilize a pet carrier or leashes if you have them.
- E. **West Hall:** Please utilize the basement area for shelter.
- F. **Arts and Science Building (ASB):** Students, faculty and staff should also utilize the hallways on the Lower Level and 1st and 2nd floor. Sit facing the wall covering your head while sheltering. Do not use 3rd or 4th floor hallways.
- G. **Olive Kettering Library:** Students, faculty and staff should utilize the basement away from windows and glass doors.
- H. **Wellness Center:** All persons in the Wellness Center should use the Racquet Ball Courts as a shelter area. This area has the best protection in the building. If the racquet ball courts become overpopulated, please use the small hallway immediately outside the racquet ball courts.
- I. **Foundry Theater:** All persons in the theater should shelter in the restroom away from windows or utilize the stairwell that leads to the sound mixing room. If a large crowd is present, you may also utilize the area under the seating in the Main Theater area.
 1. Do not go to the Foundry Theater as it may not be open. ASB and the Wellness Center are your best resources for shelter. Prioritize getting to the ASB as it is closer than the Wellness Center.
- J. **Sculpture Annex:** Students, faculty and staff should use the restroom as a shelter area or the room at the back of the Sculpture Annex without windows. Because this is a one level building, please cover your head while sheltering.

- K. **Fine Arts Building:** Please utilize the stairwells for shelter up to the 3rd floor.
- L. **Maintenance Shop:** All persons should use the restrooms for sheltering. The key room may be utilized as well. Because this is a one-level building, please cover your head while sheltering.
- M. **Facilities Building (behind Sontag):** All persons should use the restroom, blueprint room, or garage for shelter. Because this is a one-level building, please cover your head while sheltering.
- N. **Geothermal Plant:** All persons should shelter away from glass and utilize the restrooms or hallway outside the restroom area.
- O. **Kettering Building:** All persons should use the 1st or 2nd-floor hallways away from glass for sheltering. The stairwells may also be utilized up to the 2nd floor.
- P. **Coretta Scott King Center:** Please use restrooms or inside stairwells for shelter.
- Q. **Case Commons Residential Buildings:** All occupants of Case Common Units should utilize the restrooms in the units utilizing the shower area in the restroom due to glass blocks used for lighting. The other area you may utilize is in the kitchen area directly underneath the loft/stairwell to the 2nd floor. Please close your room door behind you when seeking shelter.
- R. **Pennell House:** Please utilize the basement for shelter.
- S. **Weston Hall:** Please utilize the basement area for shelter.
- T. **Farm:** Immediately upon hearing the County Tornado Sirens or receiving an emergency text and email from the Antioch Emergency Alert System, go to the Arts and Science Building (ASB) for shelter. This building is typically unlocked daily except on weekends. Your backup building to go to would be the Wellness Center front door. Time is of the essence. Once the sirens sound or an alert is issued by the College. You have very little time to find shelter. Do not attempt to shelter outside unless you cannot get to a building due to severe dangerous conditions.