

Weather Emergencies

Watches: Indicate that conditions are right for development of a weather hazard. *Watches* cover a larger area than *Warnings*. Watches usually have lead times of approximately 1-2 hours (tornado or thunderstorm), 3-12 hours (flash flood), and 12-36 hours (river flood or winter storm).

Warnings: Indicate that a hazard is imminent and the probability of occurrence is extremely high. Warnings are issued based on eyewitness reports or clear signatures from remote sensing devices (radar, satellite). Warnings usually have lead times of approximately 30 minutes or less (for thunderstorm type events), and 6-18 hours (for river floods and winter storms). The Weather Channel should be programmed on hand held radios. If electricity were lost weather information would still be available.

Advisories: Issued when weather is expected to disrupt normal routines, but is not expected to be life threatening (e.g., 2-3 inches of snow, dense fog, etc.). Advisory lead times are the same as Warnings.

Upon Issuance of a Watch or Advisory

Principal, Team:

- Activate appropriate members of Emergency Response Team to be alert for possible change in weather status
- Monitor weather reports for change in conditions

Upon Issuance of a Warning

Principal, Team:

- Implement Severe Weather Safe Area procedure
- All students and staff shall proceed to designated safe areas
- Remain quiet to hear further instructions
- Occupants of portable classrooms shall move quickly to the main building to designated shelter areas
- Follow standard student accounting and reporting procedures
- Occupants of shelter areas shall remain in that area until the “all clear” is given
- In the event of building damage, students shall be evacuated to safer areas of the building or from the building
- If evacuation occurs, do not reenter the building until given the “all clear”

Additional steps for our school/facility (if any):

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