

EDINBORO UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

## **SEVERE WEATHER/NATURAL DISASTERS-Policy No. D017**

Supersedes Policy No. D017, Dated 1/10/90

Recommended for Approval By David M. O'Dessa, Vice President for Administration and Institutional Advancement

Approved By Foster F. Diebold, President on March 7, 1994

Review Date: As Required

---

### **INTENT**

It is the intent of this policy to establish a procedure to secure the safety, health, and well being of all persons engaged in the Edinboro University operation on campus when alerted to severe weather watches or warnings or an impending natural disaster.

### **POLICY**

It is the policy of this University to exercise all possible and practicable alert and safety measures to protect personnel on campus during periods of threat from or actual occurrence of severe weather or natural disaster.

### **PROCEDURES - SEVERE WEATHER**

#### **Tornadoes**

By definition, a tornado watch is a forecast of the possibility of one or more tornadoes in a large area. This is usually an area 150 miles wide and 200 miles long. Normal activities should continue but with monitoring of radio weather reports for tornado warnings. A tornado warning means that a tornado has been detected and may be approaching.

During a tornado watch, a responsible person shall be assigned by the Vice President for Administration and Institutional Advancement as a lookout. This person shall be equipped with a radio. This lookout should have a clear view to the south and west or the direction from which the storm is approaching.

In the event of a "tornado warning" for the immediate vicinity, an officer of the University police will be assigned to a location providing a clear view to west and south. That officer will advise the police office of any sighting resembling a tornado (tornado warning).

If a tornado is sighted or a "tornado warning" is declared for the immediate vicinity, the University police will notify all dormitories via telephone. Police patrol vehicles will be used to notify the general campus area via their public address systems. All students, faculty and staff will be advised to remain indoors, away from doors and windows and to go to the basement or center of the first floor if no basement is available.

During a period of tornado warning, public warning will be signaled by the Edinboro Volunteer Fire Department siren. The warning is a three-minute up-and-down tone. The all clear signal is a long, even tone.

Campus radio, WFSE 88.9 FM, will also broadcast the warning in conjunction with WCKK 103.7 FM (K-104 radio) and the Emergency Broadcasting System.

The campus police shall notify the dormitories by telephone. They shall also notify the campus by use of the police vehicle loudspeakers.

All persons should seek shelter, preferably in the basement if one is available. If no basement is available, interior corridors and small rooms on the ground or lowest floor should be used. The best area will normally be the north and east side of the building as most storms approach from the south or west. In every case, the area selected for shelter should be on the sides away from the approach of the storm.

Avoid windows if at all possible, as well as auditoriums, gymnasiums and other wide, free span areas with an unsupported overhead.

The following buildings have no basements or inadequate basements:

Academy Hall

Memorial Auditorium

Leader Clinic

Garages

International Student Center

Substation

McNerney Hall

Miller Research

Van Houten Dining Hall

White Hall

Faculty Annex

Loveland Hall

Maintenance Building

Cooper Hall

Hendricks Hall

Butterfield Hall

Baron-Forness Library

Occupants of these buildings shall seek shelter either on the lowest floor or in a nearby building with a basement.

Academy Hall, White Hall, and Faculty Annex occupants shall seek shelter in the basement of Compton Hall or Heather Hall.

International Student Center occupants shall seek shelter in the basement of Ross Hall.

The occupants of the garages and maintenance building shall seek shelter in Earley Hall.

Van Houten occupants will use the inner corridors and north dining hall. The window drapes should be drawn because of the large glass area.

Lawrence Towers occupants shall use the first floor, both sides, north and east rooms and corridors. The large open recreation area shall not be used because of the wide free span (unsupported) roof area.

Occupants of Memorial Auditorium shall seek shelter on the ground floor of Doucette Hall.

Persons caught outside who cannot reach shelter safely should seek a nearby ditch or depression and lay flat, shielding their head with their arms.

### **Flooding/Flash Floods**

By definition, flooding occurs on the University campus when a prolonged, steady rain or the rapid melting of heavy snow cover cause the slow, steady rise of campus streams and eventual overflow. Flash floods occur when unusually heavy rains cause the rapid rise of campus streams and the inability of storm sewers to contain the runoff of excess water.

The University police and maintenance department personnel will closely monitor low lying areas where sidewalks, roadways and parking lots are in immediate risk of being under water. When such flooding appears to be imminent, barricades will be erected across those sidewalks, roadways and the entrances to those lots.

When transformer pads are in danger of flooding, the maintenance department will disconnect the power to those transformers.

No activities will be permitted in or near flood waters except as necessary for police, rescue and maintenance operations.

When there may be a chance of flooding, the low sidewalks to the bridges crossing Darrow Run from Hendricks Hall, Baron-Forness Library and the University Center will be monitored. When rising water begins to approach these sidewalks, they are to be closed by barricades on each side of the flooding or expected flooding.

The inner circle road (Scotland Road) will be monitored, particularly near Cooper Science Hall, and barricaded when this section begins to flood.

The Hendricks Hall Transformer Pad will be monitored during severe flooding and power to the transformers switched off if water is approaching the transformer bases.

Basements and ground level floors which may be prone to flooding will be checked when conditions so warrant.

There shall be no activities in, on or near flood waters except by authorized maintenance, rescue or law enforcement personnel. There shall be no boats, rafts or other floating devices except for those which may be required for emergency maintenance or rescue purposes.

## **PROCEDURES - NATURAL DISASTERS**

### **Earthquakes**

An earthquake is a sudden slipping or displacement of a portion of the earth's crust, accompanied and followed by a series of vibrations. Earthquakes are unpredictable and strike without warning. They may range in intensity from slight tremors to great shocks, and may last from a few seconds to as much as five minutes. Movement of the ground

in an earthquake is seldom the cause of injury or death. Most casualties result from falling objects and debris because of the shock and damage to buildings and other structures.

During an earthquake: Remain calm. If indoors, stay indoors. If outdoors, stay outdoors. When indoors, get under a desk, table or other sturdy piece of furniture, or against a doorway or inside wall. Stay near the center of the building and away from windows and outside doors. When outdoors, employees and others should move to or stay in open areas away from buildings and utility wires. If in an automobile, stop as quickly as safety permits, and stay in the vehicle.

After an earthquake: Again, remain calm. Check nearby personnel for injuries. Do not move seriously injured personnel unless they are in immediate danger of further injury. Do not use telephones except for genuine emergency calls. Report injuries to the University Police. Report facilities damage to University Maintenance. Be prepared for aftershocks by following the above procedures. Cooperate fully with police, rescue and safety officials.