

**Western Michigan University**

# **TORNADO Safety Rules**



**TORNADO WATCH** means tornadoes are possible in and near the watch area.

**TORNADO WARNING** means a tornado has been sighted or is indicated by weather radar – ***TAKE SHELTER NOW!***

- A **TORNADO WATCH** is announced over local radio and television stations, through NOAA alert radios, and by phone to key campus locations. Be prepared to take shelter.
- A **TORNADO WARNING – TAKE SHELTER NOW** condition is announced over local radio and television stations and NOAA alert radios, through the sounding of Kalamazoo’s outdoor sirens and the main campus outdoor notification speakers, and by phone calls and/or text messages to those that registered for WMU Alert. An email is also sent to those with a WMU email address.
  - Go to the designated tornado shelter when possible. Or take shelter in the basement or interior corridors, stairways, or rooms on the lowest possible floor of the building. **STAY AWAY FROM WINDOWS.**
  - Do not take shelter in large rooms with wide, free-span roofs such as gymnasiums or auditoriums.
- Tune in your local radio or TV station for weather updates. Do not call the Department of Public Safety for information during a watch or a warning. Incoming phone calls tie up emergency lines that may be critically needed if severe weather strikes our campus.
- Have a tornado emergency action plan that includes monitoring local radio and TV stations. At home, keep your family together and be ready to move to shelter. Have blankets, a working flashlight, necessary medicines, a battery-operated radio, and a first aid kit to take to the shelter.
- The City of Kalamazoo sirens are tested at 1:00 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month.