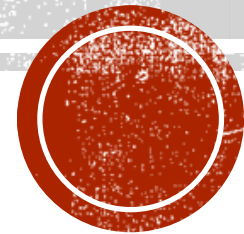


SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS

BROWARD COLLEGE COMMUNITY &
INCIDENT COMMAND TEAMS



TRAINING AGENDA

- Types of Severe Weather
- Communications about Severe Weather
- Preparedness Actions
- Initial Response Actions – Community & Incident Command Teams



SEVERE WEATHER

- Severe Thunderstorms – thunderstorm producing hail that is at least 1-inch in diameter or larger, and/or wind gusts of 58 mpg or greater.
- Tornados – violent rotating column of air extending from a thunderstorm to the ground.
- Floods – an overflowing of a large amount of water beyond its normal confines.
- Hurricanes – a low-pressure weather system with highly sustained winds.



SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS



- A thunderstorm that produces a tornado, **winds of at least 58 mph** (50 knots or ~93 km/h), and/or **hail at least 1" in diameter**. Structural wind damage may imply the occurrence of a severe thunderstorm. A thunderstorm wind equal to or greater than 40 mph (35 knots or ~64 km/h) and/or hail of at least ½" is defined as approaching severe.
- less than 0.50" Pea
- 0.50" - Marble/Mothball
- 0.75" - Dime/Penny
- 0.88" - Nickel
- **1.00" - Quarter**
- 1.25" - Half Dollar
- 1.50" - Walnut/Ping Pong
- 1.75" - Golf Ball
- 2.00" - Hen Egg
- 2.50" - Tennis Ball
- 2.75" - Baseball
- 3.00" - Tea Cup
- 4.00" - Grapefruit
- 4.50" - Softball



SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS – NWS NOTIFICATIONS

WATCH



- Issued by the NWS when conditions are favorable for the development of severe t-storms in and close to the watch area.
- The size of the watch can vary depending on the weather situation. They are usually issued for a duration of 4 to 8 hours.

WARNING



- Issued when either a severe t-storm is indicated by radar or a spotter reports a t-storm producing definition.
- Lightning frequency is not a criteria for issuing a severe thunderstorm warning.
- They are usually issued for a duration of one hour. They can be issued without a Severe Thunderstorm Watch being already in effect



TORNADOS



- A violently rotating column of air, usually pendant to a cumulonimbus, with circulation reaching the ground. It nearly always starts as a funnel cloud and may be accompanied by a loud roaring noise. On a local scale, it is the most destructive of all atmospheric phenomena.



TORNADOS - NWS NOTIFICATIONS

WATCH



- Issued by the National Weather Service when conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes in and close to the watch area.
- Usually issued for a duration of 4 to 8 hours. They normally are issued well in advance of the actual occurrence of severe weather

WARNING



- Issued when a tornado is indicated by the radar or sighted by spotters.
- They can be issued without a Tornado Watch being already in effect. They are usually issued for a duration of around 30 minutes.



COMMUNICATIONS OF SEVERE WEATHER

▪ BROWARD COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY, SECURITY & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- The ability to receive advanced weather warnings can be challenging due to the rapid evolving nature of the incidents. There are various processes and initiatives which have been implemented in order to better position the College to recognize early signs.
 - iNWS : District Department of Safety, Security & Emergency Preparedness are enrolled within the NWS interactive early warning system. This mobile decision support service permits the receipt of direct communications from NOAA/NWS in the form of text messages and e-mail alerts. Different from Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) that are issued through FEMA's public system, these are designed and intended for core partners.
 - NWS Chat: District Department of Safety, Security & Emergency Preparedness have been registered within NWSChat: a direct and secured line with NWS Miami meteorologists in order to open direct lines of communication and information sharing.



PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS – BROWARD COLLEGE

- Broward College continually invests into actions designed to strengthen the institution and build a more resilient community. Efforts specifically targeted towards severe weather include:
 - Broward College Severe Weather Plan
 - Severe Weather Awareness Seminars
 - Annual Broward College Hurricane Preparedness Seminar
 - Annual Broward College Hurricane Exercise & Test
 - Severe Weather Mitigation and Preparedness Measures
 - SKYWARN: Broward College partners with the National Weather Service (NWS) in hosting official SKYWARN® training sessions. : Participants gain foundational knowledge on identifying severe weather conditions and an understanding on how to report wind gusts, hail size, rainfall, and cloud formations that could signal developing conditions.



INITIAL RESPONSE ACTIONS – BROWARD COLLEGE COMMUNITY

LIGHTNING

Indoors – stay away from doors and windows. Avoid water, telephone lines, and all metal objects, including electric wires, machinery, motors, power tools, etc. Do not use the telephone. Take off head-sets. Turn off, unplug, and stay away from appliances, computers, power tools, TV set, etc. Lightning may strike exterior electric and phone lines, inducing shocks through inside equipment.

In your car – because cars are supported on rubber tires (an effective electric insulator) they are generally safe from lightning strikes. Electrical current will also generally follow a path around, rather than through, the passenger compartment (not necessarily true for convertibles).

In an open area – go to the nearest ditch or ravine and drop to your knees. There are a number of “do-nots” to keep in mind:

- Do not stand in an open area
- Do not stand underneath a tall tree (especially if it is in an isolated area)
- Do not seek shelter in a small structure in an open area, such as picnic or rain shelters
- Do not stay in or around a body of water
- Do not go near anything metal – farm equipment, golf clubs, wire fences, etc.



INITIAL RESPONSE ACTIONS – BROWARD COLLEGE COMMUNITY

TORNADO

Generally there will be a brief warning period, which is insufficient to take major emergency protection measures for the facility, but hopefully sufficient time for last minute survival efforts.

When a 'Tornado Warning' is issued, take shelter immediately. A tornado has actually been sighted. Keep the following in mind:

If in a building, go to an interior hallway on the lowest level. Seek out interior spaces that form a protective core; closets and bathrooms in the center offer the greatest protection. Stay away from windows, exterior walls and exterior doors. If possible, cover yourself with a rug or blanket. Do not use the elevator.

If in a car, and the tornado is nearby, get out of the vehicle and seek cover. Do not try to outrun a tornado with your vehicle. If it is not possible to find suitable shelter inside a building, lay flat in a ditch, drain, or low area. Cover the back of your neck with your hands.

If you are outdoors – lie face down in a ditch or nearest low area and cover your head with your hands. After the tornado, stay alert. Take extreme care when moving about in an area damaged by a tornado. Watch for downed power lines, shattered glass, splintered wood, or other sharp protruding objects.

* If a student, faculty, or staff member spots a tornado while at a Broward College location, they should immediately report it to Campus Safety by calling 954-201-HELP (4357).



INITIAL RESPONSE ACTIONS – INCIDENT COMMAND TEAMS

- If a watch is issued by the NWS, take necessary precaution measures to be ready if a warning or actual incident develops impacting one of Broward College locations.
- Communicate per the directions of the CEMP/SWP/SOG to ensure all appropriate operational areas are aware.
- If a warning or actual incident develops and impacts one of Broward College locations, follow protocols included within the respective emergency management plan. Incident Commander ensures an EOC is activated and all necessary steps are implemented.
- For more information, view the CEMP/SWP/SOG.





**FOR MORE
INFORMATION
VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

www.broward.edu/safety

