



SEVERE WEATHER ACTION

TORNADOES & THUNDERSTORMS

IMPORTANT LOCATION INFORMATION

County: Minnehaha County (North of 57th Street)
Lincoln County (South of 57th Street)
City: Sioux Falls
State: South Dakota

Cities near Sioux Falls:

Sioux City, Iowa – 86 miles away South
Mitchell, South Dakota – 73 miles West
Worthington, MN: 63 miles East
Brookings, South Dakota – 56 miles North

TELEVISION STATIONS

KSFY
KDLT
KELO
Channels vary by provider

RADIO STATIONS

KELO	1320	AM
KSOO	1000	AM
KHTN	104.7	FM
KMXC	97.3	FM

TORNADOES

Tornado Watch means weather conditions are favorable for tornado development and tornadoes are possible in the area. Remain alert for approaching storms and be prepared to seek shelter.

Tornado Warning means a tornado has been spotted in the area either by spotters or weather radar. Move to your predesignated place of safety immediately.

Tornado sirens are activated by the City of Sioux Falls when the path of the tornado includes the Sioux Falls area. **Note:** *Tornado sirens are tested by the City of Sioux Falls the first Friday of every month at 11:00 a.m.* These sirens are intended to warn people outside of buildings and are not designed to be heard inside every building. If these sirens sound, USF employees are expected to take action.

THUNDERSTORMS

These are heavy rain storms that include thunder, lightning and the possibility of small and large hailstorms. Remain indoors away from windows to avoid lightning strikes and hail injuries. Watch for weather announcements.

RESIDENTIAL ON-CAMPUS STUDENTS

- Student Life Staff, Residence Hall Directors (RD) and Resident Assistants (RA) and other available staff will gather all residents to the Severe Weather Safe Areas (identified for each building), and remain with the students.
 - In many buildings this will be the lower level or an area without windows and in the center of the building.
 - If in doubt of whether one should go to a Safe Area, USF advises all students and staff to take shelter within a USF building in a Safe Area.
- Residents should bring blankets, if able, for protection from debris
- Remain in the Severe Weather Safe Areas until the tornado passes, and an **All Clear** is issued via USF Campus Safety and Security to the RD, RA or designee.
- In the case of a tornado warning the designated Severe Weather Safe Areas away from windows and doors are as follows:
 - Burgess Hall – First Floor Hallway
 - Grand Island – First Floor Hallway
 - Mary Collier Baker - First Floor Hallway
 - Kroske Residence Hall – First Floor Hallway
 - North Residence Hall – Basement
 - Sullivan Faith and Living Center – Basement
 - Athletic Complex – Lower level of the USF Stadium
 - Other Campus buildings – Basement or main floor away from windows and doors

WHAT ACTION SHOULD STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES TAKE TO STAY SAFE?

1. When the tornado sirens sound, text warning issued/heard, Emergency notification received or a tornado has been sighted, seek shelter immediately.
 - Weather notifications for Minnehaha County is for Main Campus area
 - Weather notifications for Lincoln County are for the Athletic Complex area
2. Move to a designated shelter based on your location. Assist those with special needs in getting to the shelter.
3. Put as many walls between you and the outside as possible. Get under a sturdy table and use your arms to protect your head and neck. Stay away from windows and open space.
4. If there is no basement, go to an interior room on the lowest level (closets, restrooms, interior hallways).
5. In a high-rise type building, go to a small interior room or hallway with no windows on the lowest floor possible.
6. Get out of vehicles, trailers and mobile homes immediately and seek shelter in a nearby building.
7. If caught outside with no shelter, lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands and arms.
8. Never try to outrun a tornado in a vehicle. Tornadoes are erratic and move swiftly.
9. Watch out for flying debris. Flying debris causes most of the injuries and fatalities.

GENERAL USF SEVERE WEATHER PROTOCOL

1. All employees are required to step up and make weather appropriate decisions in the best interest of USF students, employees, and guests.
2. USF Campus Safety and Security, as an extra precaution will work to alert faculty, staff, and students on the USF campus to take appropriate action.
3. USF, if able, will also activate Emergency Alert (the campus emergency notification system) for those who have subscribed to warn subscribers when a tornado warning has been issued.
4. Monitor local weather reports.
5. Be prepared to act.
6. Communicate with students, faculty and staff in academic buildings and residence halls if appropriate for the time of year, time of day, and other influencing factors.

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