TO: Members of the West Lafayette campus community  
FR: Jason Wasson, Vice President for Physical Facilities and Chief Public Safety Officer  
DA: March 1, 2023  
RE: Spring Severe Weather – Tornadoes and Thunderstorms Procedures – PLEASE POST

Purdue University is located in a region of the United States that is susceptible to dangerous weather events such as severe thunderstorms and tornadoes. Faculty, staff, and students must prepare themselves to respond to severe weather by reviewing online building emergency plans (https://www.purdue.edu/ehps/emergency-preparedness/emergency-plans/bep/index.php) to locate “shelter-in-place” locations and consider the following in any building:

I. Preparation – Shelter-in-place location and weather warnings  
a. Locate the accessible basement or lowest interior corridor in the building.  
b. Identify a shelter-in-place location away from glass and exterior walls, if possible.  
c. Stay informed through local media sources when severe weather is expected.  
d. Obtain a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather application or radio.  
e. Keep a working flashlight in your office or residential area.

II. Response – Go indoors and shelter-in-place  
a. A “tornado warning” issued by the National Weather Service means atmospheric conditions make a tornado likely or a tornado has been sighted, and you must seek shelter immediately. When the All-Hazards Outdoor Warning Sirens sound or NOAA sounds a warning alarm tone on the weather application or radio, you must seek shelter immediately.  
   i. Proceed to the shelter-in-place location or the lowest level of any building, away from glass and exterior walls, if possible.  
b. A tornado warning can be considered “all clear” when NOAA states that the tornado warning has expired. NOAA weather applications and local radio and television stations can be used as a source for the expiration of the Tornado Warning time period.  
c. Always remain in a place of shelter until you receive an all-clear message or the warning has expired.  
d. Dial 911 (Purdue Public Safety Dispatch) to report any life-threatening emergency conditions resulting from the storm.  
e. Stay out of damaged buildings and avoid broken utility lines (i.e., gas, electric, water).

Please note weather warning and response definitions on page 2.
III. Weather Warning and Response Definitions

Weather Warning Signals
- A NOAA weather alert application or radio will sound the appropriate alert.
- All-Hazards Outdoor Emergency Warning sirens will sound for approximately three minutes.
- Local television or radio stations will provide an emergency alert.
- A PurdueALERT emergency notification* will typically be sent for a tornado warning via some or all of the following emergency notification layers: text message, desktop pop-up alert, digital signs, classroom alert beacons and Boiler TV emergency alert advising of the tornado warning and the expiration time.

Shelter-in-Place
Proceed to the lowest level of the building including a basement or sub walk. Position yourself in an interior corridor of the area away from glass and exterior walls, if possible. Be prepared to kneel facing a wall and cover your head. Stay sheltered until the warning expires.

Severe Thunderstorm Watches and Warnings
The National Weather Service issues “severe thunderstorm” watches and warnings. Tornadoes arise from severe thunderstorms. Stay informed via one or more of the above weather warning signals for thunderstorm watches and warnings to prepare for the potential of more severe weather.

Tornado Watch
The National Weather Service issues a “tornado watch” when local atmospheric conditions are favorable for the formation of tornadoes. During a tornado watch, stay informed via one or more of the weather warning signals noted above.

Tornado Warning
The National Weather Service issues a “tornado warning” when atmospheric conditions make a tornado likely or a tornado has been sighted. Seek shelter immediately. Monitor the expiration of the tornado warning, and remained sheltered until the tornado warning expires.

All-Hazards Outdoor Emergency Warning Siren Testing
The All-Hazards Outdoor Emergency Warning sirens are tested by Tippecanoe County at 11 a.m. on the first Saturday of every month, except during periods of adverse weather conditions. In addition, the seven sirens located on campus are tested once each semester.