

Kettering College Safety Policy

Code Gray: Severe Weather-Tornado

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PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to provide an organized college wide tornado safety response in the event of severe weather in Montgomery County with potential threat to Kettering College.

DEFINITIONS:

The National Weather Service (NWS) uses specific terminology to relay the weather threat to the public in the fastest way possible.

TORNADO WATCH - conditions are favorable for tornadoes to develop. It is normally issued for 4 to 6 hours, and can include many counties. If you are in or near the Tornado Watch area, stay informed with NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television.

TORNADO WARNING - a tornado has been sighted, or a developing tornado is reported by trained spotters or indicated on Doppler radar. A warning is typically issued for a small area, for less than an hour. If a Tornado Warning is issued for your area, take cover immediately!

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WATCH - conditions are favorable for thunderstorms to produce large hail or damaging winds including tornados. These watches are normally issued for 4 to 6 hours at a time, and for a large number of counties. Once again, if you are in or near the Severe Thunderstorm Watch area, stay informed with NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television.

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING - a severe thunderstorm has been detected by Doppler radar, or by a trained spotter. Severe thunderstorms produce wind gusts to 58 mph or stronger, or hail 3/4 inch in diameter or larger. Take cover quickly if a severe thunderstorm approaches you, or if one is reported in your area.

SEVERE WEATHER STATEMENT - The Severe Weather Statement is a follow-up to Tornado and Severe Thunderstorm Warnings. These statements inform you of the current status of a tornado or severe thunderstorm. In addition, it gives the history of a storm, where it is moving, and who it will affect. This NWS product is also used to cancel or expire a warning.

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POLICY:

Tornado/Severe Thunderstorm Watch

1. KMC Security, Kettering College Office of the President, and Kettering College Reception Desk personnel monitor NOAA Weather Radios certified to PublicAlert™ standards and capable of Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) for National Weather Service (NWS) alerts.
2. When the NWS issues a tornado or severe thunderstorm watch for the area, KMC Security and/or Kettering College Public Relations personnel will notify Kettering College faculty, staff, and students of the watch alert by email and text message using the WENS system.

Tornado Warning

1. When the NWS issues a tornado warning for the area, KMC Security or Kettering College Public Relations personnel will notify Kettering College faculty, staff, and students of the tornado warning by email and text message using the WENS system. The Kettering College Reception Desk personnel notify dormitory occupants using the PBX system.
2. Classes cease immediately! Faculty and staff direct students to turn off laboratory equipment for which they are responsible and proceed to the nearest designated ground floor tunnel tornado shelter using the nearest stair way. Do not use elevators! Provide assistance to persons with disabilities! Do not leave the building! Persons outside the college buildings when the tornado warning is issued are to enter the nearest college building and proceed to the nearest tornado shelter. Remain in the designated tornado shelters until the “ALL CLEAR” message is given.

Warning ALL CLEAR Announcement

1. KMC Security will notify faculty, staff, and students of the ALL CLEAR signal.
2. Faculty and students return to their scheduled classes and laboratories.

Tornado Drills

1. Announced tornado drills will be conducted once each fall and winter semester.
2. Kettering College Administration and Public Relations personnel will give instructions regarding the tornado drill to faculty, staff, and students by email prior to the tornado drill.
3. At the designated time, KMC Security or Kettering College Public Relations personnel issue the tornado drill by email and text message using the WENS system. All college personnel follow the tornado warning procedures until the “DRILL ALL CLEAR” message is given.

SPONSORING DEPT:	Kettering College Safety Committee
DEPARTMENTS AFFECTED:	Kettering College
DATE OF ORIGIN:	February 22, 2017
LAST REVIEWED:	September 7, 2017
LAST REVISED:	September 7, 2017

APPROVED BY:	Kettering College Safety Committee
EFFECTIVE DATE:	April 13, 2017

Kettering College Policy

Kettering College adopts this policy for Kettering College Main Campus and the Ollie Davis Medical Arts and Education Center