



JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Tornado Safety Tips

Jacksonville State University recognizes the potential threat that severe weather, specifically tornadoes, poses to our campus. The JSU Police Department assembled these tips and suggestions to enable faculty, staff, students, and visitors to better prepare themselves to handle a tornado event should one impact the campus.

Definitions of tornado watch and warning

- A **tornado watch** is issued by the National Weather Service when tornadoes are possible in the area.
- A **tornado warning** is issued when a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar in the area.

Suggestions for pre-planning within campus buildings

Pre-storm

- Identify and clearly know safe areas throughout your facility.
- Review and update telephone tree information for faculty and staff working in your building.
- Make sure all building or departmental NOAA severe weather radios are functioning and have back-up batteries.
- Conduct tornado drills each semester.
- Inform all students, faculty, staff, and visitors of actions to take in the event of a tornado warning.
- Subscribe to a weather related Internet site that sends email weather updates for your zip code. (Examples include: Weather.com, Breaking Weather.com, WeatherBug, etc.)
- Contact the JSU Police Department if you need assistance with the emergency plan and safe sheltering areas within your building.
- Make sure your emergency contact information is correct in the JSU Emergency Alert System by login into your MyJSU account and updating your information. Program 256-782-5440 into your phone as JSU Emergency Alert so you will immediately recognize all incoming calls from this number as JSU Emergency Alert. Sign up any other alert systems as available in your local community

When a tornado watch is issued

- Monitor your NOAA severe weather radio for emergency broadcasts or severe weather updates.
- Remind students, faculty, and staff of the safe locations within your building.
- Listen to a local television news or radio station to obtain up-to-date weather information.

Tornado Safety Tips continued

When a tornado warning is issued

- Activate the emergency notification system for your building (public announcements, telephone tree, etc.).
- Make sure messages are delivered to classrooms, labs, athletic facilities, meeting rooms and other areas in your facility.
- Move to the safe sheltering areas in your building. If time permits, take a flashlight, first aid kit, and your NOAA weather radio so you can hear the “all clear” announcement.
- Reserve building elevators for individuals with mobility issues.

Suggestions for students, faculty, and staff

Sheltering during a storm if inside a building

- Go to the basement or to an inside hallway at the lowest level of the building.
- Take your personal belongings if time permits (laptops, purses, book bags, etc.).
- Secure your work computer if time permits (logoff and shut down to minimize damage and potential loss of data).
- Lock offices and secure sensitive or confidential items (grade books, financial records, etc.) as time permits.
- Avoid places with wide-span roofs such as auditoriums, theater style rooms, cafeterias, large hallways, or gymnasiums
- Stay away from exterior windows and doors as well as display cases, shelving, or wall mounted audio visual equipment that could collapse on top of you.
- Get under a piece of sturdy furniture (if available) such as a workbench, heavy table, or desk, and hold on to it.
- Use your arms to protect your head and neck.

Sheltering during a storm if outdoors, in a vehicle, or on a campus bus

- Get inside a building if possible.
- Follow the instructions of your bus driver if you are riding the GameCock Express.
- Lie in a ditch, low-lying area, or crouch near a strong building if shelter is not available or if there is no time to get indoors.
- Be aware for the potential for flash flooding.
- Use your arms to protect to your head and neck.

Post storm suggestions

- Help injured, trapped, or persons with disabilities or special needs.
- Give first aid when appropriate. Don't try to move the seriously injured unless they are in immediate danger of further injury. Call the University Police at 256-782-5050 or 911 for help.
- Watch out for downed power lines and other damaged utilities when evacuating.
- Turn on a radio or television to get the latest emergency information.

Jacksonville State University Police Department

Phone (256) 782-5050 | Fax (256) 782 -5286 | Email emorrow.@jsu.edu | Website: <http://www.jsu.edu/police/>

Tornado Safety Tips continued

- Stay out of damaged buildings. Return only when campus officials deem the building(s) to be safe.
- Limit use of telephones or cell phones to emergency calls only.
- Avoid spilled medicines, bleaches, gasoline, or other flammable liquids. Do not attempt to clean up spills without proper equipment.
- Leave the buildings if you smell gas or chemical fumes and notify the University Police at 256-782-5050.

Severe weather internet resource list

- www.weather.gov National Weather Service
- www.homelandsecurity.alabama.gov/ Alabama Department of Homeland Security
- www.fema.gov Federal Emergency Management Agency
- www.ready.gov National Readiness Web Site
- www.redcross.org American Red Cross
- www.jsu.edu/police/ Jacksonville State University Police Department