



Tornado Warning Procedure

USG Procedure | Approved November 2022

I. Purpose and Applicability

This procedure is intended to assist USG community members in preparing and responding safely when a tornado warning is issued in the area of the USG Campus.

II. Definitions

Tornado: A violently rotating column of air extending from the base of a thunderstorm down to the ground and is often, although not always, visible as a funnel cloud.

Tornado Watch: Issued when severe thunderstorms and tornadoes are possible in and near the watch area. It means weather conditions will be favorable for tornadoes to develop. It does not mean that they will occur. It only means they are possible. You should keep an eye on the weather and remain alert for approaching storms. You may continue with your normal activities, but be prepared to take action should a tornado develop.

Tornado Warning: Issued when a tornado has actually been sighted or indicated by weather radar, and is imminent. Seek safe shelter immediately.

III. Background Information

Tornadoes can occur at any time of year; however, according to the National Weather Service, the peak activity period is March through early July. They can occur at all hours of the day and night, but are most likely to occur between 3 p.m. and 9 p.m.

It is important to know the difference between tornado watches and warnings.

IV. Tornado Procedure

A. Register for the [campus alert system](#).

1. When a tornado warning is issued by the National Weather Service for the USG area during campus operating hours, USG will notify you using the campus alert system.
2. You may also receive additional alert(s), from agencies, organizations, or apps you have subscribed to. You may also receive a Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA), which is sent by authorized government alerting authorities through your

mobile carrier. These alerts are sent automatically to WEA-capable phones during an emergency.

- B. If you receive a tornado WARNING alert while on the USG campus, seek shelter immediately. Inside a USG building, move to a designated tornado safety area. These designated areas are interior spaces, away from windows, on the lower floors of all campus classrooms and administrative buildings. Do not stay on the top floors of any building. The designated tornado safety areas are:

1. Building I
 - a) 1st floor classroom hallway (Primary)
 - b) 2nd floor classroom hallway (Secondary)
2. Building II
 - a) 1st floor classroom hallway (Primary)
 - b) 2nd floor classroom hallway (Secondary)
3. Building III (Clifford and Camille Kendall Academic Center)
 - a) Priddy Library quiet study area (Primary)
 - b) 2nd floor classroom hallway (Secondary)
4. Building IV (Biomedical Science and Engineering Building)
 - a) Classroom G201 (Primary)
 - b) Classroom 1201 (Secondary)