

TORNADO SAFETY



It is that time of year again - Time to review what you will do in case of a tornado warning while on campus! Have you talked to your students to let them know where they will go and what they will do if a tornado warning has been issued? Review your buildings emergency maps showing the locations of tornado shelters.



Know the signs of a tornado:

Weather forecasting science is not perfect and some tornadoes do occur without a tornado warning. There is no substitute for staying alert to the sky. Besides an obviously visible tornado, here are some things to look and listen for: ♦Strong, persistent rotation in the cloud base. ♦Whirling dust or debris on the ground under a cloud base – tornadoes sometimes have no funnel! ♦Hail or heavy rain followed by either dead calm or a fast, intense wind shift. Many tornadoes are wrapped in heavy precipitation and can't be seen. ♦Day or night – Loud, continuous roar or rumble, which doesn't fade in a few seconds like thunder. ♦Night – Small, bright blue-green to white flashes at ground level near a thunderstorm (as opposed to silvery lightning up in the clouds). These mean power lines are being snapped by very strong wind, maybe a tornado. ♦Night – Persistent lowering from the cloud base, illuminated or silhouetted by lightning – especially if it is on the ground or there is a blue-green-white power flash underneath.



What to do...

When a tornado warning sirens sound, it is best NOT to leave the building. Proceed to the lowest floor of the building and get in a small interior room or hallway. Stay away from glass and exterior walls; put as many walls between you and the storm as you can. Crouch as low as possible to the floor; facing down; and cover your head with your hands. Stay off the elevators; you could be trapped in them if the power is lost.



If Damage Occurs...

Keep your students together and wait for emergency personnel to arrive. Carefully render aid to those who are injured. Stay away from power lines and puddles with wires in them; they may still be carrying electricity! Watch your step to avoid broken glass, nails, and other sharp objects. Stay out of any heavily damaged houses or buildings; they could collapse at any time. Do not use matches or lighters, in case of leaking natural gas pipes or fuel tanks nearby. Remain calm and alert, and listen for information and instructions from emergency crews or local officials.





Almost Vacation Time - Be Tire Smart

The Rubber Manufacturers Association, Washington, is sponsoring its 4th annual National Tire Safety Week, April 24-30, 2005, a nationwide public education initiative to teach consumers to “Be Tire Smart – Play Your PART.” Pressure, Alignment, Rotation and Tread are considered the key elements of tire care.

The message to consumers is simple: Check your tire pressure and tread depth once a month. Properly inflated tires are safer, last longer and improve fuel efficiency.

Tire Maintenance Checklist:

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| Pressure | Check tire pressure every month and before long trips. |
| Alignment | Have your alignment checked periodically to ensure even tire wear. |
| Rotation | Rotate tires at least every 6,000-8,000 miles. |
| Tread | Insert a penny with Lincoln’s head pointed down into the tire tread. If you can see all of Lincoln’s head, it’s time for a new tire. |

Source: Rubber Manufacturers Association, 2005

SPRING LAWN SAFETY

It’s that time of year again. It’s time to start trimming those hedges and mowing your lawn!

It’s also time to be extra careful about using extension cords when doing yard work. Let’s review some safety issues. Make sure you use a heavy-duty cord that is not frayed or worn. A damaged extension cord can cause serious injury.



Wear appropriate clothing when cutting grass. Wear shoes with heavy duty non-skid soles; avoid loose fitting clothing that could get caught in moving parts and wear eye protection. Keep hands and feet away from all moving parts. Be aware of parts that get hot during operation. Always discharge clippings away from people. Mowers can throw objects at more than 200 mph. Always push a push mower, never pull it toward you. Use common sense!

