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| **15.0 TORNADO** |

**SEVERE WEATHER/TORNADO SAFETY LOCATIONS**

Please insert your tornado safety locations in the table below:

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| **AREAS** | **LOCATION IN SCHOOL** | **CLASSROOMS/GROUPS** |
| Area #1 | Example: Theatre Space – curved wall hall area by music room | Daycare and Family Centre |
| Area #2 |  |  |
| Area #3 |  |  |
| Area #4 |  |  |
| Area #5 |  |  |
| Area #6 |  |  |
| Area #7 |  |  |
| Area #8 |  |  |

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| **TORNADO PLAN** |

Tornado drills should be practiced at least twice a year, prior to early spring and the beginning of the tornado season.

**TORNADO WATCH**

* A Watch is issued 2 to 6 hours prior to when these potential storms are expected.
* During a Tornado Watch, routine school activities can continue.
* Outdoor activities can also continue but with an eye to the sky for approaching thunderstorms.
* Assign one or two people as storm watchers. These individuals will be asked to watch the storms as they approach for funnel clouds.
* If funnel clouds are spotted alert the school immediately.
* The principal / vice principal / designate will make a special announcement to indicate a tornado has been sighted and is approaching.
* All staff and student will then proceed to their tornado safety locations in the school.

**TORNADO WARNING**

Warnings are issued when there is a confirmed sighting of a tornado on the ground, when weather spotters report funnel clouds with a rotating thunderstorm, or a tornado signature is detected on Doppler radar.

* Relocate to the designated safe areas until the danger has passed. It should take no more than 2 minutes to move all students to their safety zones.
* Move students out of portable/mobile classrooms, away from windows and into the school’s tornado safety zones.
* Make special provisions for disabled students.
* Assign teacher to round up children on playgrounds or other outdoor areas during a tornado warning.
* Post a trained teacher or school employee to keep an eye on the storms as they approach.
* As the storm nears, give the signal for "Everybody down!”. Everyone should then crouch low, head down, protecting the back of the head with the arms.



* Hold students beyond your regular class dismissal time until the severe weather threat has passed.
* Hold students from boarding buses until the danger has passed.
* School buses should not be operated during a period of tornado warning. Notify transportation if busses are in the process of arriving for drop off or pickup.
* If students are on a bus and a tornado warning is issued or severe threatening weather is observed, drivers must be prepared to move students to the nearest shelter. In the event there is no immediate shelter, students should evacuate the bus to a ditch, culvert, ravine or low-lying area and assume the protective position until the threat of severe weather has passed.
* Once the storm has past, assess the safety of the building.
* If a warning is issued during either a practice or game, athletic activity should be suspended and all participants moved as rapidly as possible to safe shelter.

**RECOVERY**

* If your school is hit, call 911.
* Do not enter any damaged areas until they have been inspected and designated safe by the authorities.
* Schools will communicate with the Board Office via the most effective means available. Please contact the Superintendent and Safety Officer.
* All communication to the media shall be directed the Communications Officer at ext. 1034.
* Parents will be directed to the FAMILY REUNIFICATION center where they will be supplied with information about their children as the information becomes available.
* Keep students assembled in an orderly manner, in a safe area away from broken glass and other sharp debris, and away from power lines, puddles containing power lines, and emergency traffic areas. Take attendance.
* Continue listening to local radio or television stations for updated information and instructions.
* Help anyone who may require special assistance or medical aid.
* Help injured or trapped persons. Do not move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger of further injury.
* Keep everyone out of damaged parts of the school; chunks of debris or even that whole section of the building may fall down.
* Ensure nobody is using matches or lighters, in case of leaking natural gas pipes or fuel tanks nearby.
* Stay alert for the potential for additional storms.
* Shut off the gas and electrical supply to the building, if damage has occurred to the school, using the outside main valve if possible.
* Watch out for fallen power lines or broken gas lines and report them to the utility company immediately.
* If a tornado has resulted in a disaster and/or a SOLE (State of Local Emergency) has been declared by an elected official, school administrators will obey the orders of the Winnipeg Fire and Paramedic Service Incident Commander.
* Staff must set a calm example for students at the disaster scene and reassure those who are shaken.
* Use the telephone only for emergency calls
* Enact the FAMILY REUNIFICATION PROCEDURES
* Document all activities conducted during the tornado response:
	+ what went right and what went wrong?
	+ can the plan be improved?
	+ can other schools learn from your experience?