



**Methodist College**  
**UnityPoint Health**

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Section: A

Policy #: A - 65

Approval:

*Dr. K. QA. J.*

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Date Revised: New

Policy/Revision Submitted by: L. Moore

**SUBJECT: Tornado Warning**

**I. POLICY:**

Methodist College has a planned procedure to follow in the event of a tornado watch/warning to aid in the protection of employees, students, and property.

**II. PURPOSE:**

Provides a guideline for Methodist College response in the event of a tornado watch/warning.

**III. GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Tornado Watch**

When conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop, a severe thunderstorm or tornado WATCH is issued by the National Weather Service in Lincoln, Illinois. Local radio and/or television stations will issue the watch notification for specific central Illinois counties. The internal notification of a watch should be implemented when Peoria County and/or any surrounding counties are designated as "watch areas".

**Tornado Warning**

A tornado WARNING is announced by the National Weather Service when a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar for Peoria County and/or any surrounding counties. Tornadoes travel at the average of 30 miles per hour and usually move from Southwest to Northeast counties, but their direction of travel can be erratic and may change suddenly. Most tornadoes occur during the mid-afternoon or early evening (3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.), but can originate at any time with little warning from the Peoria Weather Bureau. If a tornado warning is announced, students and staff should be prepared to take appropriate steps listed below.

**Tornado Warning Announcement Determination**

A tornado warning will be announced to designated Methodist College employees and residents of the college when:

- a. The City of Peoria Emergency Civil Defense Sirens are activated

**OR**

- b. Tornado warning is issued for county of Peoria and the tornado is within a ten (10) mile radius of the City of Peoria and moving in the direction of Methodist Medical Center.

**IV. PROCEDURE:**

**TORNADO WATCH**

If a tornado watch is issued the following procedures will be followed:

**METHODIST COLLEGE BUILDING**

1. Listen to local radio and TV stations for further updates if available.
2. Be alert to changing weather conditions.
3. Stay alert for additional announcements.

**TORNADO WARNING**

**SECURITY**

1. The Security department will monitor weather alerts by radio and will alert the Call Center of a tornado warning so appropriate announcements can be made.

### **CALL CENTER**

1. Upon receiving a tornado warning from Security, the Call Center will make the following announcement: "Attention all personnel: A tornado warning is in effect."
2. The Call Center will activate the RED alert system. RED alert will contact each resident's room and designated positions at the college.
3. President of the College and COO/HR Director are also notified through RED alert system.

MC Security, MC Maintenance, COO/HR Director, Student Life/Career Services Coordinator, or RA on Call may also announce on MC overhead intercom system.

### **RELOCATION**

Tornado warnings will only be announced within Methodist College when there is a real, direct risk of the potential for loss of property or life to the building and individuals located on campus. Therefore, it is imperative that all efforts be made to relocate.

### **MC BUILDING**

If local Civil Defense sirens are activated in the area or if the RED Alert is activated.

- Close all doors of rooms with exterior exposed windows
- Employees/students should quickly move to the designated tornado refuge -- basement of Methodist College.
- Employees/students should encourage all visitors to move to a safe area and direct them to the basement.

### **ALL CLEAR**

MC employees and students should continue to monitor the weather conditions in the basement until the all clear is given.