



# DEPAUW UNIVERSITY

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## Severe Weather and Tornadoes

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Weather in Central Indiana can be dangerous. Always stay informed and make preparations prior to a weather emergency. The National Weather Service issues severe thunderstorm “Watches” and “Warnings” which are broadcast locally via the Putnam County 911 and Emergency Operations Center.

A **Watch** indicates the possibility of severe weather in a relatively broad area. A Watch means conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes. Be Prepared!

A **Warning** is issued when severe weather is actually occurring, usually encompassing a relatively small geographic area. A Tornado Warning means a tornado has been sighted or indicated by radar. Take cover immediately!

Severe Thunderstorms can also spawn Tornadoes and cause significant damage. If such conditions are present, take the same precautions as you would for a tornado.

Lightning claims more lives every year than tornadoes. When lightning is a threat, stay indoors. If caught outside keep a safe distance from tall objects, try to stay lower than anything nearby.

- Before the Storm
  - Locate a basement or lowest level in your building, interior room, away from glass.
  - Stay informed via media sources on days when severe weather is expected. Utilize phone apps such as the National Weather Service or The Weather Channel.
  - Keep a good reliable flashlight and personal essentials in your living/office/work area.
- Warning Signals

Although warning sirens are helpful tool in alerting us of potential danger, everyone is personally responsible for preparation and awareness of potentially severe weather. Be sure that the “all clear” has been given before coming out of shelter.
- During a Storm
  - Seek shelter inside, preferably below ground level or lowest accessible level. Position yourself in the safest area away from glass. Kneel facing a wall and cover your head. In other locations, look for a bathroom, closet or room at the center of the structure. If possible, get under heavy furniture and cover your head with blankets or pillows.
  - Stay sheltered until the storm has passed and an “all clear” has been issued.
  - Updates will be broadcast via media sources and via the Rave Emergency Notification (sms) text messaging service as needed.