

## Severe Weather Drill Scenario-Based Discussions

**Key discussion points to engage your students in before and after the drill are:**

*What are the circumstances that would call for a Severe Weather Lockdown?*

- Tornado Warning issued by National Weather Service for our area
- Outdoor weather alert sirens sounds
- Other severe weather situations as warranted

*What is the difference between a Tornado WATCH and a Tornado WARNING?*

- Watch – Weather conditions indicate an increased risk for severe weather that may be capable of producing a tornado. Tornado watches are very common during the spring and summer months.
- Warning – A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Take shelter immediately. This is a much less common occurrence.

*Where do we go during a Severe Weather situation?*

- Refer to the Severe Weather Safe or Severe Weather Relocation signs in your room.
- Remember that another class might be joining yours – make space for this group.
- If during lunch or other common time, remain quiet and listen for directions from administrators.

*What if there is not enough lead time on the tornado warning to get downstairs to our designated location?*

- On average, tornado warnings are issued 13 minutes before the storms hits, but it is important to know what you would do with much less warning. Flying debris is the biggest tornado hazard. Put as many walls between you and your students and the tornado as possible. Interior hallways, rooms, or corridors (even on the second floor) which are not exposed to the outside through windows are secondary options.

*What do we do when we get to our Severe Weather Location?*

- Remain quiet and follow teacher directions.
- Sit against an interior wall, close together so there is enough room for all persons.
- Be prepared to cover your head and neck with arms and hands.

*What would we do after a tornado?*

- 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. While waiting for emergency personnel to arrive, carefully render aid to those who are injured. 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. It is very important for teachers, principal and

other adult authority figures to set a calm example for students at the disaster scene, and reassure those who are shaken.

**Resources:**

- <http://www.spc.noaa.gov/faq/tornado/school.html>
- <https://www.ready.gov/tornadoes>
- [https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1409936139924-14f8f593c82cf0ee0384701252b30995/prepareathon\\_playbook\\_tornado\\_final\\_090414\\_508.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1409936139924-14f8f593c82cf0ee0384701252b30995/prepareathon_playbook_tornado_final_090414_508.pdf)