

## OU-NORMAN CAMPUS: SPRING 2021 TORNADO REFUGE PROTOCOL

### OU Norman Campus Students, Staff, and Faculty:

Local community spread of COVID-19 has made choosing a place of refuge much more difficult when tornadoes threaten. The University of Oklahoma will take as many precautions as possible to provide severe weather refuge areas for on-campus students in classes and residence halls, as well as for staff and faculty at work. Those working, taking classes, and living on campus should familiarize themselves with the location of each building's severe weather refuge areas in advance of a severe weather threat. The campus areas of refuge are listed here:

<http://ou.edu/campusafety/emergency-management-department/prepare/refuge-on-campus>

### Important Tornado Terminology:

When a **Tornado Watch** is issued by the NOAA Storm Prediction Center, on-campus residence hall refuge areas at Couch, Walker, Kraettli, Cross Village, Traditions East and Traditions West will be activated for access using a valid OU student ID. A Tornado Watch is used to notify you to pay attention to the possibility of tornadoes during the next several hours. Weather information for the OU-Norman Campus is available from the OU Department of Campus Safety at [www.ou.edu/campusafety/university-meteorologist/weather](http://www.ou.edu/campusafety/university-meteorologist/weather) as well as the OU Campus Safety twitter feed @OUEmergencyPrep. In addition, make sure that your mobile contact phone number at [accounts.ou.edu](http://accounts.ou.edu) is accurate to receive important OU-Norman Alerts.

When a **Tornado Warning** is issued by the National Weather Service - Norman, you will be advised of the warning via an emergency text from the OU-Norman Alert system. Do not leave the building you are in. Proceed immediately to the appropriate severe weather refuge area in the building you are in. A Tornado Warning means that a tornado is imminent and quick action is necessary.

### If You Do Not Live On Campus, Prepare to Seek Refuge at Home

Tornados in Oklahoma can occur during any time of year. Create a plan and prepare your home environment for a tornado threat. Identify safe refuge-in-home options utilizing the "get in - get down - cover up" strategy. Specifically, select an interior room away from doors and windows on the lowest level of your residence and prepare to use a bicycle helmet, pillows and blankets to protect yourself from possible debris. The shelter-in-home option also reduces potential spread of COVID-19. Wear your mask if sheltering with others. Include sanitary wipes, tissues, gloves, hand sanitizer and a plastic bag in your personal or family's tornado refuge area supply list. Make sure any cough or sneeze is into a tissue or clothed sleeve. Use gloves to dispose of used tissues into a plastic bag and clean the area thoroughly with sanitizing wipes.

### If You Are On Campus During a Tornado Warning:

- **Place of Refuge Protocol During the Class/Work Day**
  - If a Tornado Warning is issued during business hours, all on-campus students, staff, and faculty should take refuge in the severe weather refuge areas of the building you are in. Students in on-campus housing when the tornado warning is issued should use their appropriate residence hall refuge areas at Couch, Walker, Kraettli, Traditions East, Traditions West, Cross Village, the appropriate stairwells at David L. Boren Hall and Headington Hall, and the basements at Headington College and Dunham College. Many of these areas are controlled access, meaning that you must swipe your OU student ID to enter the place of refuge. Wear your mask, exercise physical distancing and use appropriate personal hygiene measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread.
  
- **Place of Refuge Protocol | After Hours and Weekends**
  - **Students Living in On-Campus Housing**

All residence hall refuge areas will be activated when a Tornado Watch is issued. When a Tornado Warning is issued, proceed immediately to these refuge areas (Couch, Walker, Kraettli, Traditions East, Traditions

West, Cross Village, the appropriate stairwells at David L. Boren Hall and Headington Hall, and the basements at Headington College and Dunham College). Many of these areas are controlled access, meaning that you must swipe your OU student ID to enter the refuge area. Wear your mask, exercise physical distancing and use appropriate personal hygiene measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread.

- **Students Living in Greek-Affiliated Chapter Housing**

Chapter facilities each have an in-house severe weather refuge area (i.e. basement, interior hallway, interior rooms/restrooms/closets, laundry rooms). Wear your mask, exercise physical distancing and use appropriate personal hygiene measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread.

- **Students Living in Off-Campus Housing**

Identify safe refuge-in-home options utilizing the “get in - get down - cover up” strategy. Specifically, select an interior room away from doors and windows on the lowest level of your residence and prepare to use a bicycle helmet, pillows and blankets to protect yourself from possible debris. The shelter-in-home option will also assist in reducing the spread of COVID-19. Wear your mask if sheltering with others. Include sanitary wipes, tissues, gloves, hand sanitizer and a plastic bag in your personal tornado refuge area supply list. Make sure any cough or sneeze is into a tissue or clothed sleeve. Use gloves to dispose of used tissues into a plastic bag and clean the area thoroughly with sanitizing wipes.

### **Have a Plan!**

Due to the modified classroom schedule for Fall 2020, OU buildings will be in use by students, staff and faculty for extended hours from Monday through Saturday. If a tornado threat occurs and you have historically used an OU building as your primary tornado refuge, prepare now to seek safe refuge at home. Campus locations such as the Oklahoma Memorial Union, Gaylord Family Memorial Stadium, etc. will not be open for the purposes of seeking refuge. Use the “get in - get down - cover up” strategy. Specifically, select an interior room at home that is away from doors and windows on the lowest level of your residence and prepare to use a bicycle helmet, pillows, blankets to protect yourself from possible debris. The refuge-in-home option for tornadoes will also assist in reducing the spread of COVID-19. Wear your mask if taking refuge with others. Include sanitary wipes, tissues, gloves, hand sanitizer and even a plastic bag on your tornado refuge area supply list. Make sure any cough or sneeze is into a tissue or clothed sleeve. Use the gloves to dispose of used tissues into the plastic bag and clean the area thoroughly with sanitized wipes.

As the nature of COVID-19 remains dynamic, this Plan will remain dynamic and subject to change.