

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA TORNADO SHELTERS ¹

¹Disclaimer: Because this list has not been certified by engineering or scientific study, UCO does not warrant the ability of any shelter to protect against all possible storm threats. The shelters noted here are what could be reasonably expected to provide some shelter for the average weather situations expected to be encountered in Oklahoma.

**UCO REQUIRES USE OF PRIMARY SHELTERS. ALTERNATE SHELTER LOCATIONS ARE TO BE USED ONLY IF TIME DOES NOT PERMIT MOVEMENT TO PRIMARY SHELTER.
UCO DEPT OF PUBLIC SAFETY HAS OFFICERS ON DUTY 24/7 TO UNLOCK LIBRARY BASEMENT & UNIVERSITY CENTER AFTER HOURS.**

ADMINISTRATION, LILLARD
Primary Shelter Area - Evans basement center hallway
Alternate Shelter - Administration north restrooms 106,107, mechanical room 109, southeast restrooms 116, 120, & mechanical room 118
ART & DESIGN
Primary Shelter - Murdaugh Hall basement east end
Alternate Shelter - Art basement & women's restroom 114 first floor northwest corner
BUSINESS
Primary Shelter for Business North - Murdaugh Hall basement east end or Communications basement
Primary Shelter for Business South - Liberal Arts basement
Alternate Shelter for Business North rooms 101, 103, 104, men's restroom, and east stairwell first floor landing
NO Alternate Shelter inside Business South
CENTRAL CAFETERIA
<i>This building should NOT be occupied during a tornado warning.</i>
Primary Shelter - Chambers Library basement
Alternate Shelter - Central Cafeteria south restrooms 101, 102, women's lockers 107, & northeast food storage 108
CENTRAL PLANT
<i>This building should NOT be occupied during a tornado warning.</i>
Primary Shelter Area - Liberal Arts basement
Alternate Shelter - Central Plant restroom 106
COMMUNICATIONS
Primary Shelter Area - Communications basement
Alternate Shelter - Communications restrooms 109, 110, and east stairwell
COSTUME SHOP / SCENE SHOP
<i>This building should NOT be occupied during a tornado warning.</i>
Primary Shelter Area - University Center first floor
NO Alternate Shelter inside building
COYNER HEALTH SCIENCE
<i>This building should NOT be occupied during a tornado warning.</i>
Primary Shelter - Howell Hall, Suite 118 - overflow to UC
NO Alternate Shelter inside building
EDUCATION
Primary Shelter Area - Chambers Library basement
Alternate Shelter - Education first floor central core restrooms 114, 120, and first floor auditorium room 115
EVANS HALL
Primary Shelter Area - Evans basement center hallway - overflow to UC
NO Alternate Shelter inside building
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT (PHYSICAL PLANT)
<i>This building should NOT be occupied during a tornado warning.</i>
Primary Shelter Area - Chambers Library basement
NO Alternate Shelter inside building
HAMILTON FIELD HOUSE
<i>This building should NOT be occupied during a tornado warning.</i>
Primary Shelter Area - Chambers Library basement
NO Alternate Shelter inside building
HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION
<i>This building should NOT be occupied during a tornado warning.</i>
Primary Shelter Area - Evans basement center hallway - overflow to UC
No Alternate Shelter inside building
HOWELL HALL & LAB
Primary Shelter Area - Howell Hall, Suite 118 - overflow to UC
NO Alternate Shelter inside building
HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
Primary Shelter Area - University Center first floor, north end
Alternate Shelter - HES room 113, food lab 110A, & restrooms 103, 105
LIBERAL ARTS
Primary Shelter Area - Liberal Arts basement
Alternate Shelter - LA office suite rooms 102 & 104 & restrooms 121, 134, 137
LIBRARY, MAX CHAMBERS*
Primary shelter Area - Library basement
Alternate Shelter - Library northeast corner, restrooms 116, 117, 118 & northeast stairwell and Library (old side) restrooms #121, 122
MATH COMPUTER SCIENCE
<i>This building should NOT be occupied during a tornado warning.</i>
Primary Shelter - Howell Hall, Suite 118 - overflow to UC
NO Alternate Shelter inside building
MITCHELL HALL
<i>This building should NOT be occupied during a tornado warning</i>
Primary Shelter - Evans basement center hallway - overflow to UC
NO Alternate Shelter inside building

MUSIC <i>This building should NOT be occupied during a tornado warning.</i>
Primary Shelter - University Center first floor north or Evans Hall basement
Alternate Shelter - Music east basement, rooms 010, 005, 004, Suites 128, & restrooms 129, 131
PRESIDENT'S OLD HOUSE ANNEX (School for Deaf Children)
<i>This building should NOT be occupied during a tornado warning.</i>
Primary Shelter Area - Evans basement center hallway
NO Alternate Shelter inside building
PUBLIC SAFETY
<i>This building should NOT be occupied during a tornado warning.</i>
Primary Shelter - Chambers Library basement
Alternate Shelter - Public Safety restroom
THATCHER HALL
Primary Shelter - Thatcher Hall basement
NO Alternate Shelter inside building
UNIVERSITY CENTER, NIGH (UC)
Primary Shelter - University Center first floor, north
NO Alternate Shelter inside building
UNIVERSITY HOUSE
<i>This building should NOT be occupied during a tornado warning.</i>
Primary Shelter - Evans basement center hallway
NO Alternate Shelter inside building
WANTLAND HALL
<i>This building should NOT be occupied during a tornado warning.</i>
Primary Shelter - Evans basement center hallway
Alternate Shelter - University Center first floor, north
WANTLAND STADIUM
<i>This building should NOT be occupied during a tornado warning.</i>
Primary Shelter - Chambers Library basement
NO Alternate Shelter inside building
WELLNESS CENTER
<i>This building should NOT be occupied during a tornado warning</i>
Primary Shelter - Chambers Library basement
Alternate Shelter - Wellness Center restrooms & Fitness Lab first floor
Y-CHAPEL OF SONG
<i>This building should NOT be occupied during a tornado warning.</i>
Primary Shelter - Evans basement center hallway - overflow to UC
NO Alternate Shelter inside building
HOUSING
HOUSING OFFICE
Primary Shelter - Murdaugh basement east end
Alternate Shelter - Housing Office room # 3 & restrooms in northeast corner
HOUSING MAINTENANCE SHOP
Primary Shelter - Chambers Library basement
Alternate Shelter - shop bathroom on lower level
BRONCHO III (formerly named Broncho IV before demo of Broncho III)
Primary Shelter - Chambers Library basement
Alternate Shelter - apartment bathrooms or utility closets
CENTRAL PLAZA
Primary Shelter - Central Plaza basement
Alternate Shelter - University Center, first floor, north end
MURDAUGH HALL
Primary Shelter - Murdaugh basement east end
Alternate Shelter - Murdaugh bathrooms or closets on first floor
UNIVERSITY COMMONS APARTMENTS
Primary Shelter - Chambers Library basement
Alternate Shelter - apartment bathrooms or utility closets
UNIVERSITY COMMONS CLUBHOUSE
Primary Shelter - Chambers Library basement
Alternate Shelter - Clubhouse restrooms 107, 108 or computer room 102
UNIVERSITY SUITES
Primary Shelter - Chambers Library basement
Alternate Shelter - Apartment bathrooms or utility closets
WEST HALL
Primary Shelter - Chambers Library basement
Alternate Shelter - West Hall first floor hallways or lavatory area of bath.
Alternate Shelter for handicapped residents - West Hall bathrooms in H10, H8, H7, H4, H3

Updated 04/07/2008

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TORNADOS

BEFORE

KNOW THE TERMS USED TO DESCRIBE TORNADO THREATS:

TORNADO WATCH -- Tornadoes are possible. Watch the sky and listen to radio or television for more information. Be prepared to take shelter. If you see any revolving funnel-shaped clouds, report them immediately by telephone to your local law enforcement agency.

TORNADO WARNING -- A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Take shelter, turn on a battery-operated radio or television, and wait for the "all clear" announcement by authorities.

Refer to the preparedness steps as outlined under Thunderstorms. Determine the best location to seek shelter when threatened by a tornado. A basement or cellar will usually afford the best protection. If an underground shelter is not available, identify an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor.

When a warning has been issued by the National Weather Service, sirens have been activated, or a tornado has been sighted take the following actions:

GO TO YOUR PRIMARY SHELTER LOCATION.

IF YOU ARE OUTDOORS...

- If possible, get inside a substantial building.
- If shelter is not available or there is no time to get indoors, lie in a ditch, culvert, or low-lying area or crouch near a strong building. Use arms to protect head and neck. Stay aware of the potential for flash flooding.

IF YOU ARE IN A VEHICLE...

- Never try to outrun a tornado in a vehicle. Heavy rain, hail, and traffic may impede your movement. Tornadoes can change directions quickly and can easily lift up a vehicle and toss it through the air.
- Get out of the vehicle immediately and try to take shelter in a nearby building.
- If there isn't time to get indoors, get out of the vehicle and lie in a ditch, culvert, or low-lying area away from the vehicle.

AFTER

- Monitor the radio or television for emergency information or instructions.
- Check for injured victims. Render first aid if necessary.
- Do not attempt to move severely injured victims unless absolutely necessary. Wait for emergency medical assistance to arrive.
- Use the telephone only for emergency calls.
- Try to get out of damaged buildings. Once out, do not reenter unless absolutely necessary. Use great caution.
- If driving, be alert for hazards in the roadway.
- Check on others who may require special assistance.
- If unaffected by the tornado, stay out of the damaged area until allowed by officials, your presence may hamper emergency operations.

THUNDERSTORMS

BEFORE

KNOW THE TERMS:

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WATCH -- Severe thunderstorms are possible. Watch the sky and listen to radio or television for more information. Be prepared to take shelter.

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING -- Severe thunderstorms are occurring. Take shelter, turn on a battery-operated radio or television, and wait for the "all clear" by authorities.

- Check the weather forecast before leaving for extended periods outdoors and postpone plans if severe weather is imminent.
- Keep a list of emergency phone numbers
- Keep important documents and records in a safe deposit box or other secure location.

DURING

- Close all windows and doors. Draw the shades or blinds on windows. If window or door glass breaks due to high winds, shades might reduce the risk from flying glass.
- Monitor the radio or television for the latest weather information.
- Avoid using the telephone or other electrical appliances until the storm passes.
- Turn off air-conditioners. If lightning strikes, a power surge could damage the compressor.
- Delay taking baths/showers, until after the storm passes.
- If outdoors, seek shelter immediately. If you can hear thunder, you are probably close enough to the storm to be struck by lightning.
- If you are driving, pull safely to the shoulder of the road away from trees and power lines. Lightning would bounce from trees or power poles into a vehicle through the radio antenna.
- If you find yourself in a position where there is no immediate shelter available, find a low spot away from trees and power poles where you can squat low to the ground. Make yourself the smallest target possible.

AFTER

- Monitor the radio or television for emergency information or instructions.
- Check for injured victims. Render first aid if necessary. Most victims of lightning strikes can be revived with CPR. Do not attempt to move severely injured victims unless absolutely necessary. Wait for emergency medical assistance to arrive.
- Do not make unnecessary telephone calls.
- If driving, be alert for obstructions or hazards in the roadway.
- Check on others who may require special assistance.

LIGHTNING SAFETY RULES

COURTESY of the NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA) U.S. DEPT of COMMERCE

- Stay indoors, and don't venture outside, unless absolutely necessary.
- Stay away from open doors and windows, fan coils, stoves, metal pipes, sinks, and plug-in electrical appliances. Don't use plug-in electrical equipment like hair dryers, electric toothbrushes, or electric razors during the storm. Don't use the telephone during the storm. Lightning may strike telephone lines outside.
- Don't use metal objects.
- Don't handle flammable materials in open containers, metal equipment, and dismount. Tractors and other implements in metallic contact with the ground are often struck by lightning.
- Seek shelter in buildings. If no buildings are available, your best protection is a cave, ditch, canyon, or under head-high clumps of trees in open forest glades. When there is no shelter, avoid the highest object in the area. If only isolated trees are nearby, your best protection is to crouch in the open, keeping twice as far away from isolated trees as the trees are high. Avoid hilltops, open spaces, wire fences, metal clotheslines, exposed sheds, and electrically conductive elevated objects.
- If you are in an automobile stay in it. Automobiles offer excellent lightning protection.
- When you feel the electrical charge-if your hair stands on end or your skin tingles-lightning may be about to strike you. Drop to the ground immediately.

Department of Public Safety/Environmental Health and Safety Division

Telephone Numbers: UCO Department of Public Safety 974-2345 - Environmental Health and Safety Division 974-2216