

# Campus Safety Bulletin

March 2015

## IN THIS ISSUE: SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS



*Severe weather preparedness  
can help save lives.*

*Make sure you are prepared  
and informed.*



**CAMPUS  
EMERGENCIES  
CALL "2911"  
(336) 750-2911**

Since severe weather season in North Carolina begins in the spring of the year, the National Weather Service - Raleigh Office coordinates Severe Weather Awareness Week in March. The week is used to remind residents of the natural hazards we face in our state and actions we can take to protect ourselves from those hazards. Each of us should be aware of the potential for:

### Severe Thunderstorms & Lightning

The National Weather Service (NWS) defines a thunderstorm as severe when it produces a tornado, wind gust of 58 miles per hour or greater, and/or quarter sized hail. Lightning occurs with all thunderstorms and results from the buildup and discharge of electrical energy within the storm cloud. The NWS does not issue warnings for lightning, but you should always be aware of the lightning danger anytime a thunderstorm is nearby. If you can hear thunder you are close enough to a storm to be in danger of being struck by lightning. A good rule of thumb is: "When thunder roars, go indoors."

#### Safety Tips:

- Know your sources for up-to-date weather information.
- Purchase a NOAA Weather Radio.
- Pay attention to Severe Thunderstorm Alerts:
  - o Watch: Conditions are favorable for severe weather development
  - o Warning: Severe weather is imminent or occurring
- If caught outdoors, seek shelter immediately in the closest building and stay away from water.
- Avoid contact with any electrical equipment.

### Tornadoes

As violently rotating columns of air that extend from the base of a storm cloud to the ground, tornadoes are one of nature's most devastating phenomena. Peak tornado season in the Carolinas is in March and April. However, they can develop year-round.

#### Safety tips:

- If you are caught outdoors, seek shelter in a low spot, like a ditch or culvert, to protect yourself from the flying debris.
- If you are in a vehicle or mobile home, abandon it and seek shelter in a more fixed and sturdy structure or in a ditch. Never try to outrun a tornado in a vehicle.
- If you in a building, go to a safe room or the lowest level and most interior room in the building.

### Flooding

Flooding in the Carolinas can result from several different weather situations. Slow moving thunderstorms can dump heavy rain over the same location resulting in rapid flash flooding, or days of steady rain can cause creeks and rivers to flood over large areas. If the NWS issues a Flood Watch, you should remain alert to the possibility of heavy rain and flooding over the next six to twelve hours

#### Safety tips:

- When approaching water flowing over the road, turn around and go the other way. Never attempt to drive through flood waters.