Preparedness Bulletin
Severe Weather

We would like to take a few moments of your time to remind the community about severe weather safety measures at Emory. Emory provides severe weather safety guidance in the Emory Just in Time Emergency Campus Guide. See http://www.emergency.emory.edu.

The tornado that occurred outside of Oklahoma City yesterday is a grim reminder of why it is important to be prepared. It is important that you know what to do and where to go to seek shelter before warnings are issued for dangerous weather.

The University uses a private service to monitor weather, which can pinpoint severe weather headed for the Emory and Oxford campuses.

The Emergency Notification System will alert students, staff, faculty and visitors of an emergency affecting the Emory community. The alert includes outdoor sirens, emergency text messages, and email notifications. An announcement will also be posted on Emory's homepage and on our Twitter feed @Emory_CEPAR.

If a tornado or dangerous winds warning is issued for any Emory campus, community members should take immediate action.

Emory has identified areas of safe refuge for tornado protection on Emory's main campus as well as Oxford and Grady campuses. In the event of a severe weather warning, it is advisable to move to an interior room or hallway, and away from windows. The lowest level of a building is usually safest, unless flooding is evident. Severe Weather Safe Refuge placards have been posted to help identify these areas. They can also be found by following the building evacuation map or Emory's interactive map.

CEPAR offers the following safety tips for tornado warnings or dangerous winds:

- If you are indoors, move to a Severe Weather Refuge location on campus, or the lowest level of a building, in an interior room or hallway, away from windows.
- If you are outside, seek shelter immediately on the lowest floor of a sturdy nearby building away from windows.
- If no shelter is available, lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands.
Flying debris causes most fatalities and injuries associated with a tornado.

- If you are in a vehicle, which offers little protection, go to the lowest floor of a sturdy nearby building, away from windows or lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands.
- Other considerations include being aware of falling debris and power line hazards; and consider texting — not calling — parents and friends. Texting uses less bandwidth, stays reliable for a longer period of time and eases the overload on communications networks.

Weather conditions change rapidly; monitor your local television and/or radio station for the most updated weather conditions including the "all clear" indicating the tornado or severe weather has passed the area. The University will also use the Twitter account @Emory_CEPAR to send an update to the community when the threat of severe weather has passed.

For more information please point your browser to http://www.emergency.emory.edu and visit the CEPAR website for additional information. There you will find a personal preparedness checklist, how to sign up for our Twitter feed, and the "Just In Time" Emergency Guide.

Alexander P. Isakov, MD, MPH, FACEP
Executive Director and Associate Professor

Samuel Shartar, RN, CEN
Senior Administrator