

Seeking Safe Shelter at SNU in Severe Weather

Background Information:

Tornadoes are nature's most violent storms. Spawned from powerful thunderstorms, tornadoes appear as a rotating, funnel-shaped cloud that extends from a thunderstorm to the ground with whirling winds that can reach 300 miles per hour. Damage paths can be in excess of one mile wide and 50 miles long. Every state is at some risk from this hazard, with central Oklahoma (where SNU is located) being in the category of having the "highest risk" of experiencing a tornado.

Look for the following danger signs:

- Dark, often greenish sky
- Large hail
- A large, dark, low-lying cloud (particularly if rotating)
- Loud roar, similar to a freight train

Important Terms to Know:

Tornado Watch: an alert issued to the possibility of tornado development in a given area. Remain alert for approaching storms. Watch the sky and stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television for information.

Tornado Warning: A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Take shelter immediately.

In the event of a tornado, **seeking safe shelter at SNU** involves making choices. Your choice for seeking safe shelter depend, in part, upon which building you are in, and how much time is available to you before the storm strikes. The safest places for shelter are typically below ground level. If possible, seek shelter in one of the following locations identified in the **BEST Choice** or **2nd Choice** categories. If you do not have time to relocate, a **specific area** is also identified as the preferred location within each of the buildings listed below in the **3rd Choice** category. If there is insufficient time to evacuate and relocate to one of the other facilities, then seek shelter in the specified area identified in this category of building.

BEST- 1st Choice SNU Campus Locations (alphabetical listing)

Bracken Hall

Basement

Beaver Science Hall

Primary: Basement (1st Floor) Hallway Corridors and classrooms

Secondary: Auditorium (The "Pit"), away from windows. Windows and the size of the roof span make this room a secondary option.

Broadhurst

Primary: Tunnel to Swimming Pool located East end of building. Access through Men's locker room

Secondary: Men's Locker Room

Chapman Apartments

Basement/Laundry Area

Garey Hall

Primary: Basement (Away from exterior door)
Secondary: 1st floor restrooms/middle room
Third: 1st floor interior hallways-room doors closed

Hatley Hall

Primary: Basement (Away from exterior door)
Secondary- 1st floor restrooms/middle room
Third: 1st floor interior hallways- room doors closed

Snowbarger Hall

Primary: 1st floor (below ground level) restrooms
Secondary: 1st Floor hallways, with room doors closed
Third Option: Laundry Room, away from door/glass

2nd Choice- SNU campus locations:

Sawyer Center

Primary: Public Restroom on the 1st floor
1st floor Interior Hallway Corridors on either side that surround the basketball court (*not Crimson Storm basketball locker rooms...east wall is not fully constructed with masonry)

Webster Commons

Primary: Lower Level/Basement- Specifically, the following locations:
1. Back stairwell below ground level (North end by Counseling Center)
2. Restrooms on the Lower Level/Basement
3. Interior hallway behind the Storm Cellar grill area
Secondary: West wall of Pop's Student Lounge. (#4 option due to east wall of Pop's Student Lounge being made of glass)

Herrick

Basement Hallways/Corridors (north end connector hallway of basement is preferred) & Basement Restrooms located on south end of hallways

3rd Choice - SNU campus locations:

If possible, evacuate and seek shelter in one of the 1st or 2nd CHOICE areas identified above. The locations identified in the following list of buildings are options if there is insufficient time for evacuation to one of the preferred locations noted above.

Bresee Restrooms on 1st Floor/Basement

Cantrell Bathrooms at the main (east) entrance of 1st floor

Royce Brown

Primary: 1st floor rest rooms
Secondary: 1st floor hallway corridor

Fine Arts "Corporate Classroom" located in Art & Graphic Design area
Interior Restroom in the Art and Graphic Design area

Marchant Mechanical Room/Storage Area – Enter through Admissions

Facilities Management-Physical Plant

Restrooms

Interior closet adjacent to Director's office

Religion Bathrooms on lower floor

R. T Williams Learning Resource Center

Primary: Rest rooms on 1st floor at East entrance of LRC

Secondary: North end rooms of the 1st floor of the LRC

Asbury and Imel Apartments: Evacuate to safer locations if there is sufficient time or follow the Safety Tips shown below if time does not allow for evacuation/relocation

General Tornado Safety Tips: If you can't get to a building with a basement area:

- Go to the center of an interior room or hallway on the lowest level.
- Centrally located stairwells are good shelter.
- Get under a sturdy table or drop to the floor. Use your arms to protect your head and neck.
- Avoid hallways that open to the south or west.
- Absolutely avoid building areas with large free-span roofs.
- Remember: Lowest level, smallest room, center part