

## **Tornado Awareness Being Prepared!**

Creighton University participates in an annual tornado drill each spring. On March 21, 2012 the University will focus its attention on campus tornado safety procedures. This event coincides with Douglas County's annual day to test sirens and to raise the community's awareness of tornado preparedness.

### **What's Happening on March 21?**

- The National Weather Service will issue a simulated **tornado warning**. A **warning** is in effect when a tornado has been sighted or detected by radar. The timing is set for 10:10 a.m. Douglas County's Emergency Management Agency will activate civil defense sirens to test their operability.
- It is important to note that warning sirens are only intended to be heard outdoors, not inside a building. Creighton University will conduct a tornado drill coinciding with the activation of the county's civil defense sirens. Public Safety will issue a **CUAlert** and students, faculty and staff are expected to take shelter in designated areas. (*Note: The **CUAlert** system is automated and will be issued at 10 :10 a.m. even if the sirens are delayed.*)
- Phones in classrooms and departments should also ring but may lag behind mobile devices.

### **Your Role During the Drill**

- Participating in the drill will help you know what to do in the event of a real tornado warning. Our goal is to have everyone respond to the drill at 10: 10 a.m. and assemble at designated shelter areas by 10:20 a.m.

### **Faculty:**

- Review what to do in the event of a tornado warning using the information presented here.
- Sign up for [CUAlert](#) and encourage your students to do so as well.
- If you are teaching at that time the warning is issued, explain to students what is happening and lead them to the appropriate shelter areas. A complete list of shelter areas is available at <http://www.creighton.edu/emergencypreparedness/stormshelters/index.php>.

### **Staff**

- Familiarize yourself on what to do if a tornado happens using the information presented here.
- Sign up for [CUAlert](#) and encourage others to do so as well.
- If you work in an area where students reside or are gathered, lead them to the shelter area.
- If you are in your offices or at other locations on campus, let your colleagues and visitors know about the drill and seek shelter.

### **Students**

- Follow faculty and staff guidance or proceed to the closest designated shelter.
- Sign up for [CUAlert](#) and encourage others to do so as well. Assist individuals who may need help in reaching shelter areas. Once you have reached a shelter area, you have completed the drill and may resume campus activities.

### **During a Tornado Warning**

- Interrupt class, meetings or other activities.
- Direct students, staff and visitors to the nearest designated shelter area.
- IN GENERAL, GO TO THE LOWEST LEVEL OF A BUILDING, TO A SMALL INTERIOR ROOM WITHOUT WINDOWS.
- Remain in the shelter area until an all-clear has been issued on the radio or television.
- If you are outdoors, go indoors to the lowest level of a building.
- If you are outdoors and unable to seek shelter, lie flat in a ditch or low spot and cover your head with your hands.

### **Important Preparations for a Tornado Emergency**

- Sign up for **CUAlert** at <http://www.creighton.edu/CUAlert>. (Be sure you are receiving notifications via text messaging, voice and e-mail.)
- Know the designated shelter areas for the buildings you frequent. Visit <http://www2.creighton.edu/adminfinance/publicsafety/stormshelters/index.php> for a list of tornado shelters.

- Have a portable radio and flashlight on hand (storms are often accompanied by power outages). Weather alert radios and flashlights are also available at cost from Public Safety. Contact Jim Dorsey at 402.280.1805 or [jamesdorsey@creighton.edu](mailto:jamesdorsey@creighton.edu).
- Familiarize yourself with the University's Emergency Preparedness website at <http://www2.creighton.edu/emergencypreparedness/>.