

2.728 EXTREME WEATHER

2.728.02 Assumptions

- A. The university coordinates responses to extreme weather emergencies because of the genuine risks these weather events pose to the health, safety, and well-being of the university community.
- B. This agency is assigned certain response and recovery responsibilities during extreme weather incidents consistent with the TU Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) **2.03 Response and Recovery Responsibilities and Matrices**.
- C. Extreme weather emergencies may range from TU EOP **Type 1 through type 4 Incidents**.

2.728.04 Plan

- A. The agency receives weather information from various sources in order to notify the agency and the university community of extreme weather. Notifications will be made consistent with **2.757 TU Alerts**.
- B. **Hurricanes & Tropical Storms** usually allow for substantial planning time.
 - 1. **Hurricane Forecast:**
 - a. A hurricane may strike the area within 72 hours or less.
 - b. The agency will:
 - (1) Ensure all essential and sustainable operations employees are notified about the possibility of mobilization consistent with **2.755 Mobilization & Staffing Plan**;
 - (2) Review traffic and evacuation plans; and
 - (3) Conduct operational readiness inspections of vehicles, equipment, and supplies.
 - 2. **Hurricane Watch:**
 - a. A hurricane may strike the area within 24-36 hours.
 - b. The agency will:
 - (1) Notify agency personnel of the mobilization plan; and
 - (2) Finalize evacuation procedures.
 - 3. **Hurricane Warning:**
 - a. A hurricane is expected within 24 hours or less.
 - b. The agency will:

- 1. Activate the mobilization plan; and
 - 2. Implement evacuation plans as ordered.
- 5. **Tropical Storm Watch:**
 - a. A tropical storm may strike the area within 36 hours or less.
 - b. The agency will:
 - (1) Ensure all essential and sustainable operations employees are notified about the possibility of mobilization consistent with **2.755 Mobilization & Staffing Plan**;
 - (2) Review traffic and evacuation plans; and
 - (3) Conduct operational readiness inspections of vehicles, equipment, and supplies.
- 6. **Tropical Storm Warning:**
 - a. A tropical storm may strike the area within 24 hours or less.
 - b. The agency will activate the mobilization plan.
- C. **Tornados & Thunderstorms** usually do not allow for much planning time.
 - 1. **Tornadoes:**
 - a. **Tornado Watch:** Tornadoes could develop in the designated area;
 - b. **Tornado Warning:** A tornado has been sighted in the area or is indicated by radar.
 - 2. **Thunderstorms:**
 - a. **Severe Thunderstorm Watch:** There is the probability of thunderstorms, frequent lightning and/or damaging winds, hail, and heavy rain.
 - b. **Severe Thunderstorm Warning:** A severe thunderstorm has been sighted in the area or is indicated by radar.
 - 3. The agency will ensure all field personnel:
 - a. Notify Communications of any readily observable damage and hazardous conditions; and
 - b. Are notified to seek shelter in lightning safe locations and away from large trees as weather worsens.

D. **Severe Winter Storms** usually allow for substantial planning time.

1. **Winter Weather Advisory:** Cold, ice, snow, etc. is expected to cause significant inconvenience and may be hazardous, but probably not life threatening.
2. **Winter Storm Watch:** At least four inches of snow in 12 hours, or six inches in 24 hours, or significant ice accumulations are possible within 24-48 hours.
3. **Winter Storm Warning:** Severe winter weather is imminent or very likely within 12 hours.
4. The agency will:
 - a. Ensure all essential and sustainable operations employees are notified about the possibility of mobilization consistent with **2.755 Mobilization & Staffing Plan**; and
 - c. Conduct operational readiness inspections of vehicles, barricades, equipment, and supplies.

E. **Flooding:**

1. The only section of campus that is within any known 100 year flood plain runs along Towsontown Blvd., from roughly half way between the intersection of the Gilgrest Hospice Care access road and Emerson Dr. then Easterly and under Osler Dr. to the outer perimeter of Schuerholz Park. Other areas on campus may be susceptible to flash flooding brought on by natural occurrences or infrastructure problems, such as broken water lines, or clogged drains or sewers.
2. Routine operational readiness inspections will ensure that critical supplies are on hand that are necessary to cordon or block off flooded areas.
3. Officers will be alert for and report flooding conditions to Communications and the patrol supervisor.
4. When flooding necessitates a departmental response beyond routine traffic control, supervisors will be called to the scene and:
 - a. Establish a Field Command Post;
 - b. Summon additional units as available;

c. Ensure any needed notifications are made to:

- (1) Baltimore County Police and Fire Departments;
 - (2) TU Facilities Management and Environmental Health and Safety;
 - (3) TUPD commanders; and
 - (4) Others as directed;
- d. Block access to affected areas to prevent additional victims;
- e. Begin evacuations as necessary and prudent;
- f. Coordinate with on-scene senior fire officers and establish Unified Command if applicable;
- g. Facilitate transportation of evacuees to shelters by directing traffic, escorting transport vehicles, providing perimeter security, etc;
- h. Provide security for evacuated buildings and property;
- i. Ensure the flooded locations are specifically described in police reports of the incident; and
- j. Reopen flooded areas only on the direction of fire and university authorities.

F. **Weather Emergency Recovery Efforts:** The agency's responsibilities may include, but are not limited to:

1. Evaluating potential hazards and the need for emergency personnel;
2. Requesting police, fire, and rescue units as necessary to assist in rescue efforts;
3. Providing security for closed buildings;
4. Checking buildings for injured, trapped, or unauthorized people;
5. Barricading damaged areas to keep people out;
6. Providing traffic control to limit movement into affected areas; and
7. Notifying the owners of damaged automobiles.