

# Weather Related Emergency

**Watches:** Indicate that conditions are right for development of a weather hazard. *Watches* cover a larger area than *Warnings*. Watches are issued by the National Weather Service Office Severe Storm Prediction Center hours before the anticipated event is forecast to occur.

**Warnings:** Indicate that a hazard is imminent and the probability of occurrence is extremely high. Warnings are issued based on eyewitness reports or identification of specific severe weather signatures on Doppler Radar. Warnings may be issued within minutes of the arrival of most severe weather events. In the case of winter storm warnings, those warnings are often issued hours before the arrival of the weather system. A NOAA Weather Radio, with battery backup, should be installed in all school buildings.

**Advisories:** Issued when weather is expected to disrupt normal routines, but is not expected to be life threatening (e.g., 2-3 inches of snow, dense fog, etc.). Advisory lead times are the same as Watches.

## Upon Issuance of a Watch or Advisory

### Principal / Designee:

- Activate appropriate members of school Emergency Response Team to be alert for possible change in weather status
- Monitor weather reports for change in conditions
- Document actions and complete incident reports

## Upon Issuance of a Warning

### Principal / Designee:

- Implement procedure for use of Safe Zones for Severe Weather
- All students and staff proceed to designated Safe Zones for Severe Weather
- Remain quiet to hear further instructions
- Occupants of portable classrooms should move quickly to the main building to designated Safe Zones for Severe Weather
- Follow standard student accounting and reporting procedures
- Remain in the Safe Zones for Severe Weather until the “all clear” is given
- In the event of building damage, students should be evacuated to safer areas of the building or away from the building
- If evacuation occurs, do not re-enter the building until given the “all clear”
- Document actions and complete incident reports

### Additional steps for our school/facility (if any):

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- \_\_\_\_\_
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### Related Links:

- [KCSS Emergency Management Resource Guide](#)
- [FEMA PrepareAthon: Winter Storms](#)
- [Weather.gov: Winter Storms](#)