



**Tornado Warning Discussion Based Exercise
(Focus on School Bus Driver Response)**

Instructions:

The following discussion based exercise is intended to test school bus drivers and transportation supervisors' responses involving a brief scenario. Local public safety officials should be invited to participate in the discussion in order to provide technical assistance and discuss their roles and responsibilities relative to this scenario. A facilitator (Transportation Director, local Emergency Manager, etc.) should be designated to lead the discussion, and all transportation personnel should be in attendance to participate and learn appropriate local emergency procedures from the exercise discussion.

Scenario:

Weather conditions turn sour as bus driver Julie Smith attempts to navigate the winding road in north Craven County. The wind and rain whip around her yellow bus making it difficult to maintain her lane. The remaining 30 students on her bus appear to be calm but very apprehensive about the weather as Julie strains to peer through the driving rain. Her fears are suddenly confirmed as she receives a radio call from the dispatcher indicating that the National Weather Service (NWS) has issued a tornado warning for the northern end of Craven County effective 2 minutes ago. Julie attempts to call the dispatcher back to receive additional instructions, but the radio erupts with other drivers attempting to contact dispatch and one another about the warning.

Questions:

What should Julie do at this point?

Should she continue to attempt to notify dispatch of her location and to receive appropriate actions to initiate?

What should the school transportation department/district office do at this point?

What should Julie do if a parent drives up while she is stopped and wants to immediately take their child away?

How can she promote accountability for her students?

How will she be notified that everything is "all clear" once the tornado warning is lifted?

For More Information
Kentucky Center for School Safety



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Tabletop Exercise

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What should she do after the storm passes?

What are several preventative measures that Julie (or the transportation department) can implement to improve safety when threatening weather is present?

KCSS Resources

Bus Safety: <https://kycss.org/resources-and-responders/bus-safety/>

Emergency Guide: <https://kycss.org/emergency-procedures/emergency-guide/>

Natural Disaster Response: <https://kycss.org/emergency-procedures/natural-disaster-response/>

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