



Policy:

The Lutheran Home will have a policy and procedure in place in the event of severe thunderstorm warning/tornado WATCH/High Winds.

Purpose:

1. **NOTE: A WATCH MEANS CONDITIONS ARE FAVORABLE FOR THE FORMATION OF TORNADO OR A THUNDERSTORM.**
2. To protect residents, staff and visitors in case of severe thunderstorms warning/tornado watch.
3. To provide safety from lightening, hail, high winds, or heavy rain.

Procedure for Thunderstorm Warning/Tornado Watch:

1. The Lutheran Home will be alerted to a severe thunderstorm warning/tornado watch via weather monitor/television/radio or the civil defense siren. Staff will listen for current weather conditions. Local sirens are meant for those outside and are not to be depended on to warn those in the building.
2. At the first sign of severe weather, including but not limited to high winds, heavy snow or rain, or extreme temperatures, staff will confirm the location and safety of all residents.
3. Upon hearing that a severe thunderstorm warning/tornado watch is in effect, the supervisor/nurse in charge will inform the staff we are under a severe thunderstorm warning/tornado watch.
4. Any in town or out of town activities may need to be postponed or cancelled. Residents and staff should not be going for walks during this time.
5. After being informed, all staff should:
 1. Assist residents inside the building and instruct them to stay inside, preferably in their living areas.
 2. Reassure residents if they are displaying signs of anxiety.
 2. Draw draperies, blinds, etc. in resident rooms and common areas as well as remove loose objects from window sills
 3. Close fire doors
 4. Identify the location of additional pillows and blankets for residents, visitors and staff to protect them from flying glass and debris
 5. Have emergency kit and flashlight ready.
 6. Be alert to danger of winds and lightning.
 7. Be alert to loose or downed electric wires.
 8. NO resident is to have a tub bath or shower if severe thunderstorm warning/tornado warning is in effect.
 9. Administration designee/house charge is responsible to inform all nurses stations and Hope Residence when thunderstorm warning/tornado watch is cleared.