

# DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

## Weather Emergencies

When severe weather occurs, the administration will determine whether University offices will be closed. Check Old Dominion University's web page, call the University Switchboard 757-683-3000, or listen to local TV and radio news broadcasts for this information. Remember, weather emergencies can pose a serious threat, so always stay calm and alert!

### **General Guidance for Severe Weather**

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- Seek indoor shelter in the lowest level possible, in an interior room or hallway away from windows and doors.
- Crouch near the floor or under heavy, well supported objects. Cover your head.
- Avoid windows, corridors with windows, or large free-standing expanses (such as auditoriums and cafeterias). **DO NOT** use elevators during a tornado warning!
- If you are caught outside with no shelter, lie flat in a ditch or depression and cover your head.
- Watch out for flying debris. Flying debris from tornadoes causes most fatalities and injuries.

## **What to Do When There Is a Hurricane**

Follow these recommendations if there is news of a hurricane in your area:

- Follow the instructions of local emergency management personnel regarding evacuation.
- If hurricane conditions already exist outside your location, stay put! Find shelter as best you can and wait it out. The most violent conditions are likely to pass in 24 hours or less.
- Secure the space by shutting and locking all windows and doors.
- Try to locate supplies you may need - such as food, water, a radio, etc.

## **What to Do When There Is an Earthquake**

Follow these recommendations if you experience an earthquake in your area:

- If indoors, drop to the ground and take cover by getting under a sturdy table or a piece of furniture. Hold on until the shaking stops.
- If there is not a table or desk near you, cover your face and head with your arms and crouch in an inside corner of the building.
- Stay away from anything that could fall, such as lighting fixtures or heavy bookcases.
- Use a doorway for shelter only if it is nearby and if you know it is a strongly supported.
- Stay inside until the shaking stops and it is safe to move about. Injuries most often occur when people inside buildings attempt to move during the earthquake. Beware of aftershocks.
- If you are outdoors, stay there. Move away from buildings, street lights, and utility wires.