SUMMARY

A tornado outbreak hit Alabama, Georgia, the Florida panhandle and parts of South Carolina on 3 March 2019, with reports of at least 24 people killed in Lee County, Alabama. The Governor of Alabama has declared a state of emergency as rescue efforts are underway. Power outages are occurring in localised areas. If you’re in an affected area, you should follow the advice of the local authorities and familiarise yourself with information from the US National Weather Service on what to do during and after a tornado. See Natural disasters.

You’ll need prior authorisation to enter the United States using a British passport, either through a visa, a Permanent Resident Card, or the Visa Waiver Programme. Restrictions apply depending on the type of passport you hold, your nationality, criminal history, and countries you may have recently visited. Visa and other entry conditions can change at short notice. It’s your responsibility to know and understand the rules of entry before you travel. See Entry requirements.

Terrorists are very likely to try to carry out attacks in the USA. Attacks could be indiscriminate, including in places visited by foreigners. You should monitor media reports and remain vigilant at all times. See Terrorism.

UK health authorities have classified the United States as having a risk of Zika virus transmission in Florida, Texas (Cameron County and Hidalgo County only), Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. See Health.

You should be alert to the dangers of car and street crime. See Safety and security.

Snow storms during winter can cause delays and cancellations throughout airports in the USA. See Natural disasters.

If you’re abroad and you need emergency help from the UK government, contact the nearest British embassy, consulate or high commission.

Make two copies of your passport’s personal details page and leave one with friends at home. Take one copy with you, or upload it onto a secure online data storage site; this will help a speedier turnaround if your passport is lost or stolen.
SAFETY AND SECURITY

Crime: Take sensible precautions to protect yourself and your property against petty crime. Don’t leave passports in rental cars, especially in the boot, as there have been a high number of thefts by gangs targeting the vehicles of those who appear to be tourists.

Violent crime, including gun crime, rarely involves tourists, but you should take care when travelling in unfamiliar areas. Avoid walking through less travelled areas alone, especially at night. You can find public advisories and information about recent incidents on the websites of local law enforcement authorities.

Crime associated with the illegal drugs trade is a major issue in Mexican states bordering Arizona, California, New Mexico and Texas. Some foreign nationals have been among the victims of crime in the border regions, but there is no evidence to suggest they have been targeted because of their nationality. Research your destination before travelling, be vigilant, and follow the advice of local authorities.

Road travel: Traffic laws vary from state to state. If you’re planning to drive in the United States, check the driving rules in the state(s) you’ll be visiting. In most states, a full UK driving licence is sufficient. However, some states may also require an International Driving Permit, which you can get at various places in the UK for a small fee. The United States doesn’t issue International Driving Permits to foreign visitors, so you’ll need to obtain this document before you travel. Provisional licences aren’t accepted. Check requirements with your vehicle rental company. Driving is on the right hand side of the road.

Check the weather conditions before embarking on a long journey, particularly in mountainous and isolated areas where there is increased likelihood of snowfall, or in dry desert areas where you may need extra water and petrol stations could be scarce. Do not sleep in your car by the roadside or in rest areas and avoid leaving any items on display in your car. Try to stay on main roads and use well-lit car parks. If you’re hit while driving, indicate to the other driver to follow you to a public place and call 911 for the police.

Petrol stations that do not display the price of fuel usually charge considerably more than the national average for a gallon of fuel. They’re often found close to tourist destinations and airports, and notoriously near to Orlando International Airport.

Air travel: Before you travel, check the security measures you’re likely to face at the airport on the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) website. The TSA has a helpline number to help passengers with disabilities and medical conditions before they fly.

Don’t make flippant remarks about bombs or terrorism, especially when passing through US airports.

Safety concerns have been raised about INSEL Air. The US and Netherlands authorities have prohibited their staff from using the airline while safety checks are being carried out. UK government officials have been told to do the same as a precaution.

Tourism: Safety rules at public venues, such as theme parks and other tourist attractions, may vary from state to state and you should be aware that regulations may not be uniform across the US.
**TERRORISM**

Terrorists are very likely to try to carry out attacks in the USA. Attacks could be indiscriminate, including in places visited by foreigners. You should monitor media reports and be vigilant at all times.

The main threat comes from individuals who may have been inspired by terrorist groups, including Daesh (formerly referred to as ISIL) and al Qaeda, to carry out so-called ‘lone actor’ attacks targeting public events or places, as demonstrated by attacks in Manhattan, New York (11 December, 31 October 2017), New Jersey and Minnesota over the weekend of 17-18 September 2016, Orlando on 12 June 2016 and San Bernardino on 4 December 2015, among others. Attacks could take place with little or no notice.

There’s a heightened threat of terrorist attack globally against UK interests and British nationals, from groups or individuals motivated by the conflict in Iraq and Syria. You should be vigilant at this time.

The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) provides public information about credible threats. Expect an increased presence of law enforcement and tight security at public places and events. This may include a heavy police presence, additional restrictions and searches on bags, and the use of screening technologies. For all current alerts within the United States and its territories, visit the [DHS website](https://www.dhs.gov).

Find out more about the [global threat from terrorism](https://www.gov.uk/global-threat-terrorism), how to minimise your risk and what to do in the event of a terrorist attack.

**LOCAL LAWS AND CUSTOMS**

Laws vary from state to state. When you are physically present in a state, even temporarily, you are subject to that state’s laws. You must carry a passport showing that you have leave to enter or remain with you at all times.

The US is an extremely diverse society and attitudes towards lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people differ hugely across the country. Before travelling please read our general [travel advice for the LGBT community](https://www.gov.uk/travel-advice-lgbt). You can find more detail on LGBT issues in the US on the website of the [Human Rights Campaign](https://www.hrc.org).

Possession or trafficking of a controlled substance in the United States can carry a severe prison sentence and/or fine. Check with each state you are intending to visit to make sure you comply with the personal possession and consumption laws of controlled substances within those states. A list of all types of controlled substances, as listed under the Controlled Substances Act, can be found on the [US Department of Justice website](https://www.justice.gov).

Details of the assistance offered by the British Embassy and Consulates to British nationals if arrested or detained in the USA is available on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).
HEALTH

Visit your health professional at least 4 to 6 weeks before your trip to check whether you need any vaccinations or other preventive measures.

Check the latest country-specific information and advice from the National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC) on the TravelHealthPro website or from NHS (Scotland) on the fitfortravel website. Useful information and advice about healthcare abroad is also available on the NHS Choices website.

If you need emergency medical assistance during your trip, dial 911 and ask for an ambulance. You should contact your insurance/medical assistance company promptly if you’re referred to a medical facility for treatment.

Medical treatment is expensive and there are no special arrangements for British visitors. Make sure you have adequate travel health insurance and accessible funds to cover the cost of any medical treatment abroad and repatriation.

Some hospitals may ask non-US residents to pay a deposit or ‘good faith’ payment on admittance. You should direct any requests for funds to your travel insurance provider in the first instance; only pay the hospital if you’re advised to do so by your travel insurance company. Your level of medical care won’t be affected while your claim is being processed.

Medical facilities in American Samoa are basic and medical evacuation by air ambulance to Hawaii, New Zealand or Australia may be necessary. Make sure you have adequate travel health insurance and accessible funds to cover the cost of any medical treatment abroad and repatriation.

You should take suitable steps to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes and ticks. There are occasional outbreaks of mosquito-borne diseases, including West Nile virus, eastern equine encephalitis, Dengue fever, Chikungunya virus, and tick-borne diseases such as Lyme disease.

UK health authorities have classified the United States as having a risk of Zika virus transmission in Florida, Texas (Cameron County and Hidalgo County only), Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. For more information and advice, visit the National Travel Health Network and Centre website: for travel to Florida and Texas (Cameron County and Hidalgo County only) - for travel to Puerto Rico - for travel to US Virgin Islands - for travel to American Samoa - for travel to Guam.

Bringing medicines into the US: There are restrictions and prohibitions on the import of certain prescription drugs into the US. The US Department of Homeland Security website contains further information and advice on bringing medicines into the US.
NATURAL DISASTERS

**Snow storms:** Snow storms during winter can cause delays and cancellations throughout the major airline hubs in the USA. Contact your travel company or airline before you travel. To monitor airport conditions in the USA, visit the [Federal Aviation Administration](https://www.faa.gov) website.

**Hurricanes:** Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands were affected by Hurricanes Irma and Maria in September 2017. Infrastructure in these territories remains fragile. If you’re in an affected area, you should continue to follow the advice of the local authorities.

The Atlantic and Northern Pacific hurricane season normally runs from June to November and can affect US coastal regions, Hawaii, and Guam. The South Pacific tropical cyclone season normally runs from November to May and can affect American Samoa. You should monitor the progress of approaching storms on the [US National Hurricane Center](https://www.nhc.noaa.gov) website and follow instructions issued by the local authorities, including any evacuation orders.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) website contains information about how to prepare for extreme weather conditions and what to do if you are told to evacuate. It also provides a list of disaster supplies that will help if you live in an area affected by storms and hurricanes.

See our [Tropical Cyclones page](https://www.state.gov) for advice about what to do if you are caught up in a storm/hurricane.

**Earthquakes:** Alaska, American Samoa, California, Guam, Hawaii, Nevada, Northern Mariana Islands, Oklahoma, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Washington state and the US Virgin Islands are prone to earthquakes. To learn more about what to do before, during and after an earthquake, visit the [Federal Emergency Management](https://www.fema.gov) website.

**Tornadoes:** Tornadoes can occur at any time of the year depending on weather conditions. To learn more about what you should do during, and after a tornado, visit the [US National Weather Service](https://www.weather.gov) website.

**Wildfires:** Forest and brush fires (wild fires) are a danger in many dry areas. High winds can cause fires to spread very rapidly. Areas of high risk are canyons, hills and forests. Monitor local media reports and follow the advice of local law enforcement officials. Exercise caution in areas which have been recently affected by wild fires as they are more susceptible to mudslides during heavy rainfall. For more information visit the [National Interagency Fire Centre](https://www.nifc.gov) and [US Geospatial Multi-Agency Coordination Group](https://www.usgser.com) websites. For more detail about wild fires in California, visit the [CAL FIRE website](https://www.fire.ca.gov).
Volcanoes: There is continuous volcanic activity on Hawaii’s Big Island. British nationals in the area should monitor local media reports and follow the advice of local authorities, including any evacuation orders. For further updates see the State of Hawaii’s website. To learn more about what to do before, during and after a volcano, visit the Federal Emergency Management website.

RISK ASSESSMENT BY STATE (AND/OR UNIVERSITY) – Click on the state’s name for more information.

Earthquakes
Can occur in Alaska at any time, without notice. Recommendations made by the University of Alaska:

if you are INDOORS when shaking starts:
- “DROP, COVER AND HOLD ON.” If you are not near a strong table or desk, drop to the floor against an interior wall and cover your head and neck with your arms.
- Avoid windows, hanging objects, mirrors, tall furniture (filing cabinets and bookshelves), large appliances and cabinets filled with heavy objects.
- Do not try to run out of your building during strong shaking—you can be killed or injured by falling debris (glass, roof tiles, concrete, etc.).
- If you are on campus, it is safer to remain inside a building after an earthquake unless there is a fire or gas leak. Glass from high-rise buildings does not always fall straight down; it can catch a wind current and travel great distances.
- If you are in bed, stay there and cover your head with a pillow.
- Do not use elevators.
- If you use a wheelchair, lock the wheels and cover your head.

If you are OUTDOORS when shaking starts:
- Move to a clear area if you can safely walk. You should avoid overhead power lines, buildings and trees.
- If you're driving, pull to the side of the road and stop. Avoid stopping under overhead hazards or near buildings.

Once the earthquake shaking stops:
- Be prepared for aftershocks—they may be frequent and could exceed the first quake.
- Check the people around you for injuries; provide first aid. Do not move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger of a gas leak, hazardous material spill, fire or falling debris.
- Check around you for dangerous conditions such as fires, downed power lines and structure damage.
- If you have fire extinguishers and are trained to use them, put out small fires immediately.
- Check your phones to be sure they have not shaken off the hook and are tying up a line.
- Inspect your residence and work areas for damage.

If you are trapped in debris:
- Move as little as possible so that you don’t kick up dust. Cover your nose and mouth with a handkerchief or clothing.
- Tap on a pipe or wall so that rescuers can hear where you are. Use a whistle if one is available. Shout only as a last resort. Keep a whistle in your emergency kit.
- If you feel an earthquake, you can visit the Earthquake Information link on the [Geophysical Institute](https://www.geophysical institute.edu) to report a quake, look for earthquake information, and search other data.

### Health

**Seasonal Affective Disorder**

SAD is a form of depression with a pattern of onset and remission at specific times of the year. SAD can interfere with daily functioning.

Healthcare professionals may use any number of assessment tools to make a formal diagnosis of SAD. Psychotherapy and antidepressant medication may also be useful, much recent research shows that light therapy is effective in treating persons with SAD. A 1995 study (Gallin et.al.) found light therapy produced clinical remission in 75% of persons with SAD. Others suggest it may also be helpful in treating subsyndromal SAD. Light boxes, also known as, Happy Lights or SunBoxes may be available for purchase at retail stores in the Fairbanks area. Please consult a medical provider for any concerns or questions that you may have.

### Wildlife

Wild animals – avoid contact. Be especially careful not to get between a mother moose and her calf. Moose are very protective of their young. Do not feed the moose or any other wild animals.

### Crime

The Department of Homeland Security defines an active shooter as "an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area; in most cases, active shooters use firearm(s) and there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims."

These incidents happen quickly and are usually over within 10 to 15 minutes. Everyone must be prepared to react quickly to an active shooter situation.

Every active shooter/person with a weapon incident is different. You will have to quickly evaluate the situation and choose the best course of action. If you become aware of an active shooter, you have three options: **RUN, HIDE, or FIGHT.**
**Safety tips** - Don’t show lots of money in public or carry large amounts of cash. Also, be aware when going to an ATM. Consider getting an Alaskan Identification Card instead of carrying your passport around, it costs $15. Acquire, activate and test application such as ‘Find my phone’ so if the item is stolen it can be tracked.

Use your common sense and travel / walk with friends whenever possible or use the escort services (highlighted above). Be careful in laundry rooms and in elevators, especially late at night. Never drink from a common container offered to you and keep it under control.

**Theft Prevention**
- Don’t leave personal property (purses, backpacks, laptop computers, cell phones) unattended in classrooms, libraries, lounges, restrooms, corridors, or any public areas. Take personal items with you or ask someone you know and trust to watch the items for you.
- Limit the carrying of money, personal identification, credit, and debit cards. Only carry what you need.
- Record the serial number of your valuables, especially laptop computers. If valuables are stolen, serial numbers are needed for the police report.

**Street Safety**
- Use the “buddy system” whenever possible. Avoid walking or jogging alone.
- Be alert and aware of your surroundings at all times.
- Walk confidently and with a purpose.
- Avoid talking on a cell phone or listening to music with earphones while walking or jogging.
- Walk or jog in well-lighted and populated areas. Avoid alleys and construction sites.
- Avoid engaging in conversation with individuals soliciting food, money.
- Never accept a ride or get too close to a car if someone is asking for directions.
- Carry a backpack, purse or bag that zips and has a cover flap with a strap(s) that can be worn across your shoulder. Avoid bags with outside compartments. Carry wallets in front, rather than rear pockets.
- **TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS!** If you feel uncomfortable, immediately proceed to the nearest well-lighted, populated area (this may be an open restaurant, store or business) and ask for help, or call 911.

**Public Transportation Safety**
- Use the “buddy system” whenever possible.
- Know the bus or train schedule ahead of time to avoid waiting longer than necessary.
- Choose a stop or station that is well lit and populated.
- Choose a seat near the driver or conductor, whenever possible.
- Avoid displaying cash, electronic devices and jewelry (remove jewelry or tuck necklaces inside your clothing and turn rings around so stones are not showing).
- Stay alert! Don’t sleep on the bus or train.
- Hold on to purses, backpacks and bags. Don’t rest on the seat or floor.
Residential Safety
- Keep your doors and windows locked, even when you are inside.
- Don't open your door to strangers.
- Don't let unfamiliar people into your room.
- Don't leave notes on your door about where you are or when you will be back.
- Don't loan your keys to anyone or place any identification on your key ring.
- Don't prop exterior doors open or allow unfamiliar people to enter the building behind you.
- Immediately report suspicious persons or activity to your RA, Campus Safety or the police.

Acquaintance/Date Rape Prevention
- Go to parties, clubs, and bars with a group of friends. Agree beforehand to leave together.
- Go on group dates, too.
- Never leave or go somewhere alone with someone you don’t know well.
- Don’t accept open beverages from anyone but a bartender or other professional server.
- Pour or open your own drink.
- Never leave your drink unattended. If you do, discard it and get a new one when you return.
- If you suspect that you or a friend has been drugged, call 911 or get to the nearest medical attention.
- Date rape drugs are colorless, odorless, and tasteless.
| **State:** ARIZONA  
| **University:** Arizona State University; Northern Arizona University (NAU) |
| **Natural Disaster:** |
| **Wildfires:**  
These areas are no drone zones. The Use of Fireworks, Exploding Targets, and Incendiary Devices is NOT ALLOWED on Federally Managed Public Lands Year-Round. Know before you go! Always check for Red Flag Warnings & Fire Weather Watches Fire Restrictions. Fires ignited under these conditions, even accidentally, would exhibit EXTREME fire behavior. Limit or restrict all activities that may generate a spark and start a fire. Follow all fire restrictions that may be in effect and use caution when working or recreating outdoors. BE ALERT & AWARE!! |
| **Wildlife**  
Keep distance (15 m to small mammals, birds, reptiles / 30 m to deer, elk, condors, bighorn sheep and mountain lions). It is illegal in all national parks to feed any kind of wildlife. It’s also illegal calling, clicking, whistling or making noises of any kind to attract wildlife. Never assume you can get away with a close encounter. Risks associated to wildlife are bites, scratches, infectious diseases (rabies, bubonic plague, hantavirus), damage to belongings, animals can become aggressive. |
| **Crime**  
The Department of Homeland Security defines an active shooter as “an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area; in most cases, active shooters use firearm(s) and there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims.” These incidents happen quickly and are usually over within 10 to 15 minutes. Everyone must be prepared to react quickly to an active shooter situation. Every active shooter/person with a weapon incident is different. You will have to quickly evaluate the situation and choose the best course of action. If you become aware of an active shooter, you have three options: **RUN, HIDE, or FIGHT**. |
| **Theft Prevention** |
- Don’t leave personal property (purses, backpacks, laptop computers, cell phones) unattended in classrooms, libraries, lounges, restrooms, corridors, or any public areas. Take personal items with you or ask someone you know and trust to watch the items for you.
- Limit the carrying of money, personal identification, credit, and debit cards. Only carry what you need.
- Record the serial number of your valuables, especially laptop computers. If valuables are stolen, serial numbers are needed for the police report.

Street Safety
- Use the “buddy system” whenever possible. Avoid walking or jogging alone.
- Be alert and aware of your surroundings at all times.
- Walk confidently and with a purpose.
- Avoid talking on a cell phone or listening to music with earphones while walking or jogging.
- Walk or jog in well-lighted and populated areas. Avoid alleys and construction sites.
- Avoid engaging in conversation with individuals soliciting food, money.
- Never accept a ride or get too close to a car if someone is asking for directions.
- Carry a backpack, purse or bag that zips and has a cover flap with a strap(s) that can be worn across your shoulder. Avoid bags with outside compartments. Carry wallets in front, rather than rear pockets.
- TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS! If you feel uncomfortable, immediately proceed to the nearest well-lighted, populated area (this may be an open restaurant, store or business) and ask for help, or call 911.

Public Transportation Safety
- Use the “buddy system” whenever possible.
- Know the bus or train schedule ahead of time to avoid waiting longer than necessary.
- Choose a stop or station that is well lit and populated.
- Choose a seat near the driver or conductor, whenever possible.
- Avoid displaying cash, electronic devices and jewelry (remove jewelry or tuck necklaces inside your clothing and turn rings around so stones are not showing).
- Stay alert! Don’t sleep on the bus or train.
- Hold on to purses, backpacks and bags. Don’t rest on the seat or floor.
Residential Safety

- Keep your doors and windows locked, even when you are inside.
- Don't open your door to strangers.
- Don't let unfamiliar people into your room.
- Don't leave notes on your door about where you are or when you will be back.
- Don't loan your keys to anyone or place any identification on your key ring.
- Don't prop exterior doors open or allow unfamiliar people to enter the building behind you.
- Immediately report suspicious persons or activity to your RA, Campus Safety or the police.

Acquaintance/Date Rape Prevention

- Go to parties, clubs, and bars with a group of friends. Agree beforehand to leave together.
- Go on group dates, too.
- Never leave or go somewhere alone with someone you don’t know well.
- Don’t accept open beverages from anyone but a bartender or other professional server.
- Pour or open your own drink.
- Never leave your drink unattended. If you do, discard it and get a new one when you return.
- If you suspect that you or a friend has been drugged, call 911 or get to the nearest medical attention.
- Date rape drugs are colorless, odorless, and tasteless.
Most Arkansans don’t think about **earthquakes** when they list the natural hazards they see as risks to this state, but numerous earthquakes do occur in Arkansas every year. While most of these tremors are far too small to be felt by humans, there is an ever present risk of a catastrophic earthquake occurring along an area known as the New Madrid Seismic Zone which is partially located in the northeastern portion of our state. The largest earthquake risk in Arkansas exists in 19 counties in eastern and central Arkansas. That doesn’t mean the rest of the state is earthquake free. Earthquakes can and do happen all over Arkansas, as shown on the Arkansas Geological Survey website.

If you feel an earthquake, the best protective measure is to drop to the ground, cover yourself (especially your head) with something sturdy, and hold on until the ground stops shaking. Visit [ShakeOut.org](http://ShakeOut.org) for information on what to do and **not do** during an earthquake and to find out how to become involved in the world’s largest earthquake drill.

Unlike other natural disasters that affect our state (like tornadoes, floods and ice), earthquakes are impossible to predict. The time to prepare for an earthquake is now. This page is here to help you and your family prepare for an earthquake. The information found here will guide you in what to do before, during and after an earthquake to stay safe.

Mitigation can help save lives and property in the event of earthquakes. Properly built structures are more likely to withstand the ground movement that occurs in earthquakes better than those not built to seismic standards.

### Tornadoes

A tornado watch means that conditions are favourable for tornadoes and severe thunderstorms are in and close to the watch area. A tornado warning is an urgent announcement that a tornado has been reported and warns you to take immediate action to protect life and property.

**Indoors**
- Stay indoors, do not exit building or use elevators. You could be trapped in them if power is lost. Locate an interior room.
- Go directly to an enclosed, windowless area in the center of the building, corners or building support columns are best. Avoid middle of interior walls.
- Stay away from all windows and large glass objects.
- Crouch down and cover your head. Interior stairwells are usually good places to take shelter, and if not crowded, allow you to get to a lower level quickly.
- Avoid being underneath heavier objects such as lights, wall hangings and other items, which may fall.
- Remain inside until tornado has passed or cleared to leave.
- Do not use matches or lighters, in case of leaking natural gas pipes or nearby fuel tanks.
- Help direct people with special needs to a safe place, if necessary.
- If instructed to evacuate, see "Evacuation" section of this guide.
Outdoors
- Move away from trees, buildings, walls, and power lines.
- Seek the lowest possible ground, i.e. ditch, small trench. Lying flat in a ditch or low-lying area may be the only thing available.
  - Note: Never enter an open trench where a cave in or flooding may be possible.
- Stay away from power lines and puddles with wires in them, they may be “live”.
- Do not use matches or lighters, in case of leaking gas pipes or fuel tanks.
- Remain in position until “noise and high winds” have stopped.
- Do not enter any building that is deemed or looks unsafe.
- UAPD will provide instructions for immediate actions by available means.

Lightning
- Seek protective shelter immediately.
- If outdoors, do not stand underneath tall isolated objects. Avoid projecting above the surrounding landscape. Seek shelter in a low area under a thick growth of small trees. Avoid open areas and seek low areas such as a ravine or valley.
- Get off or away from metal equipment or small metal vehicles such as motorcycles, bicycles, golf carts, etc. Stay away from wire fences, clotheslines, metal pipes and rails. If you are in a group in the open, spread out, keeping people several yards apart.

Crime

The Department of Homeland Security defines an active shooter as “an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area; in most cases, active shooters use firearm(s) and there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims.”

These incidents happen quickly and are usually over within 10 to 15 minutes. Everyone must be prepared to react quickly to an active shooter situation.

Every active shooter/person with a weapon incident is different. You will have to quickly evaluate the situation and choose the best course of action. If you become aware of an active shooter, you have three options: **RUN, HIDE, or FIGHT.**

Theft Prevention
- Don’t leave personal property (purses, backpacks, laptop computers, cell phones) unattended in classrooms, libraries, lounges, restrooms, corridors, or any public areas. Take personal items with you or ask someone you know and trust to watch the items for you.
- Limit the carrying of money, personal identification, credit, and debit cards. Only carry what you need.
• Record the serial number of your valuables, especially laptop computers. If valuables are stolen, serial numbers are needed for the police report.

Street Safety

• Use the “buddy system” whenever possible. Avoid walking or jogging alone.
• Be alert and aware of your surroundings at all times.
• Walk confidently and with a purpose.
• Avoid talking on a cell phone or listening to music with earphones while walking or jogging.
• Walk or jog in well-lighted and populated areas. Avoid alleys and construction sites.
• Avoid engaging in conversation with individuals soliciting food, money.
• Never accept a ride or get too close to a car if someone is asking for directions.
• Carry a backpack, purse or bag that zips and has a cover flap with a strap(s) that can be worn across your shoulder. Avoid bags with outside compartments. Carry wallets in front, rather than rear pockets.
• TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS! If you feel uncomfortable, immediately proceed to the nearest well-lighted, populated area (this may be an open restaurant, store or business) and ask for help, or call 911.

Public Transportation Safety

• Use the “buddy system” whenever possible.
• Know the bus or train schedule ahead of time to avoid waiting longer than necessary.
• Choose a stop or station that is well lit and populated.
• Choose a seat near the driver or conductor, whenever possible.
• Avoid displaying cash, electronic devices and jewelry (remove jewelry or tuck necklaces inside your clothing and turn rings around so stones are not showing).
• Stay alert! Don’t sleep on the bus or train.
• Hold on to purses, backpacks and bags. Don’t rest on the seat or floor.

Residential Safety

• Keep your doors and windows locked, even when you are inside.
• Don’t open your door to strangers.
• Don’t let unfamiliar people into your room.
• Don’t leave notes on your door about where you are or when you will be back.
• Don’t loan your keys to anyone or place any identification on your key ring.
• Don’t prop exterior doors open or allow unfamiliar people to enter the building behind you.
• Immediately report suspicious persons or activity to your RA, Campus Safety or the police.

Acquaintance/Date Rape Prevention

• Go to parties, clubs, and bars with a group of friends. Agree beforehand to leave together.
• Go on group dates, too.
• Never leave or go somewhere alone with someone you don’t know well.
• Don’t accept open beverages from anyone but a bartender or other professional server.
• Pour or open your own drink.
• Never leave your drink unattended. If you do, discard it and get a new one when you return.
• If you suspect that you or a friend has been drugged, call 911 or get to the nearest medical attention.

Date rape drugs are colorless, odorless, and tasteless.
**State: CALIFORNIA**  
**University: University of California (all campuses); California State at Monterey Bay; Occidental College**

**Natural disaster**

**Earthquake & Tsunami-coastal areas:** As per the [Federal Emergency Management](https://www.fema.gov), if an earthquake happens, protect yourself right away. Drop, Cover then Hold On!

Some preparation tips:
- Secure items that hang on walls and breakable objects on low shelves.
- Practice ‘Drop, Cover, then Hold On’ with friends.
- Create a family emergency communication plan. Also plan with friends where to meet if you get separated.

During:
- Drop, Cover, then Hold On like you practiced. Drop to your hands and knees. Cover your head and neck with your arms. Hold on to any sturdy furniture until the shaking stops. Crawl only if you can reach better cover without going through an area with more debris.
- If in bed, stay there and cover your head and neck with a pillow.
- If inside, stay there until the shaking stops. DO NOT run outside.
- If in a vehicle, stop in a clear area that is away from buildings, trees, overpasses, underpasses, or utility wires.
- If you are in a high-rise building, expect fire alarms and sprinklers to go off. Do not use elevators.
- If near slopes, cliffs, or mountains, be alert for falling rocks and landslides.

After:
- Expect aftershocks to follow the largest shock of an earthquake.
- Check yourself for injury and provide assistance to others if you have training.
- If in a damaged building, go outside and quickly move away from the building.
- Do not enter damaged buildings.
- If you are trapped, cover your mouth. Send a text, bang on a pipe or wall, or use a whistle instead of shouting so that rescuers can locate you.
- If you are in an area that may experience tsunamis, go inland or to higher ground immediately after the shaking stops.
- Save phone calls for emergencies.
- Once safe, monitor local news reports via battery operated radio, TV, social media, and cell phone text alerts for emergency information and instructions.
- Use extreme caution during post-disaster clean-up of buildings and around debris. Do not attempt to remove heavy debris by yourself. Wear protective clothing, including a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, work gloves, and sturdy, thick-soled shoes during clean-up.
In the rare event of a tsunami, get to high ground and as far inland as possible and evacuate as soon as you see any natural signs or receive an official tsunami warning.

Wildfires: Forest and brush fires (wild fires) are a danger in many dry areas. High winds can cause fires to spread very rapidly. Areas of high risk are canyons, hills and forests. Monitor local media reports and follow the advice of local law enforcement officials. Exercise caution in areas which have been recently affected by wild fires as they are more susceptible to mudslides during heavy rainfall. For more information visit the National Interagency Fire Centre and US Geospatial Multi-Agency Coordination Group websites. For more detail about wild fires in California, visit the CAL FIRE website.

Crime

The Department of Homeland Security defines an active shooter as “an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area; in most cases, active shooters use firearm(s) and there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims.”

These incidents happen quickly and are usually over within 10 to 15 minutes. Everyone must be prepared to react quickly to an active shooter situation.

Every active shooter/person with a weapon incident is different. You will have to quickly evaluate the situation and choose the best course of action. If you become aware of an active shooter, you have three options: RUN, HIDE, or FIGHT.

The most common crime is theft, reduce your risk by:

- Do not leave your computer and other personal belongings unattended.
- Lock your doors and windows when leaving, even if just for a few minutes.
- Do not loan your keys to anyone and take your key with you when you leave, so roommates will not have to leave a door unlocked for you.
- Secure your bicycle wheels and frame to the bicycle rack with a U-lock. Park your bicycle only in areas designated for bicycle parking or it may be confiscated by security. Register your bike with the UC police department.

CLERY ACT REPORTING

Under the Clery Act of 1998, the University provides an Annual Security Report on crime statistics to ensure UC students, prospective students, parents and employees have access to accurate information about crime committed on campus and campus security procedures.
The University of California's University-wide Annual Report and Crime Statistics and the campus websites provide details and practical information to help you prevent and better respond in the event of a crime or public safety emergency.

Theft Prevention
- Don't leave personal property (purses, backpacks, laptop computers, cell phones) unattended in classrooms, libraries, lounges, restrooms, corridors, or any public areas. Take personal items with you or ask someone you know and trust to watch the items for you.
- Limit the carrying of money, personal identification, credit, and debit cards. Only carry what you need.
- Record the serial number of your valuables, especially laptop computers. If valuables are stolen, serial numbers are needed for the police report.

Street Safety
- Use the “buddy system” whenever possible. Avoid walking or jogging alone.
- Be alert and aware of your surroundings at all times.
- Walk confidently and with a purpose.
- Avoid talking on a cell phone or listening to music with earphones while walking or jogging.
- Walk or jog in well-lighted and populated areas. Avoid alleys and construction sites.
- Avoid engaging in conversation with individuals soliciting food, money.
- Never accept a ride or get too close to a car if someone is asking for directions.
- Carry a backpack, purse or bag that zips and has a cover flap with a strap(s) that can be worn across your shoulder. Avoid bags with outside compartments. Carry wallets in front, rather than rear pockets.
- TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS! If you feel uncomfortable, immediately proceed to the nearest well-lighted, populated area (this may be an open restaurant, store or business) and ask for help, or call 911.

Public Transportation Safety
- Use the “buddy system” whenever possible.
- Know the bus or train schedule ahead of time to avoid waiting longer than necessary.
- Choose a stop or station that is well lit and populated.
- Choose a seat near the driver or conductor, whenever possible.
- Avoid displaying cash, electronic devices and jewelry (remove jewelry or tuck necklaces inside your clothing and turn rings around so stones are not showing).
- Stay alert! Don’t sleep on the bus or train.
- Hold on to purses, backpacks and bags. Don’t rest on the seat or floor.

Residential Safety
- Keep your doors and windows locked, even when you are inside.
- Don’t open your door to strangers.
- Don’t let unfamiliar people into your room.
• Don’t leave notes on your door about where you are or when you will be back.
• Don’t loan your keys to anyone or place any identification on your key ring.
• Don’t prop exterior doors open or allow unfamiliar people to enter the building behind you.
• Immediately report suspicious persons or activity to your RA, Campus Safety or the police.

Acquaintance/Date Rape Prevention
• Go to parties, clubs, and bars with a group of friends. Agree beforehand to leave together.
• Go on group dates, too.
• Never leave or go somewhere alone with someone you don’t know well.
• Don’t accept open beverages from anyone but a bartender or other professional server.
• Pour or open your own drink.
• Never leave your drink unattended. If you do, discard it and get a new one when you return.
• If you suspect that you or a friend has been drugged, call 911 or get to the nearest medical attention.

Date rape drugs are colorless, odorless, and tasteless.
State: COLORADO  
University: University of Colorado, Boulder

Natural disaster:

Flooding:
If a flash flood warning is issued, heed all instructions and stay away from Boulder Creek and other areas when flooding is occurring. Climb to higher ground immediately and avoid drains, ditches, ravines and culverts. For more flood safety tips visit www.colorado.edu/floodsafety

Winter weather:

Some tips to prepare:
- Wear adequate clothing and use blankets
- Make a friends & family communication plan
- Listen to a NOAA Weather Radio and/or local news channels as well as the National Weather Service. Be alert to changing weather conditions.
- Minimize travel

Some tips during a winter storm:
- Stay indoors
- Keep dry – change wet clothing frequently to prevent a loss of body heat.
- Watch signs of frostbite and hypothermia
- Don’t drive unless is absolutely necessary
- Let someone know your route or destination and when you expect to arrive if you are planning to travel

More information can be found on the Campus Emergencies & Hazards website.

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• Date rape drugs are colorless, odorless, and tasteless.
### District of Columbia

**Universities:** Georgetown University, George Washington University

**Natural disasters:**

### Earthquake

The D.C. area is not particularly known for earthquakes. The area sits near no major fault lines. However, on August 23, 2011, a magnitude 5.8 earthquake hit Mineral, Virginia which shook D.C.

Earthquakes are unpredictable and can happen any time of the year.

**Before**

Use the following tips to prepare your home, family, and pets for an earthquake:

- Stay Informed through local radio, television or official social media accounts. Download the [free HSEMA app](https://example.com) or [AlertDC](https://example.com) to receive updates wherever you are.
- Build or re-stock your [Emergency Kit](https://example.com).
- Make a [Family Emergency Plan](https://example.com). Your family members may not all be in one place when an earthquake strikes. It is important to know how you will contact one another, how and where you will meet and what you will do in case of an emergency. Plan how to communicate with family members if you lose power.
- Look around places where you spend time. Identify safe places such as under a sturdy piece of furniture or against an interior wall so when the shaking starts, you drop to the ground, cover your head and neck with your arms. If a safer place is nearby, crawl to it and hold on.
- Practice how to “Drop, Cover, and Hold On!”
- To react quickly you must practice often. You may only have seconds to protect yourself in an earthquake.
- Before an earthquake occurs, secure items that could fall and cause injuries (e.g., bookshelves, mirrors, light fixtures).
- When choosing your home or business, check if the building is earthquake resistant per local building codes.

**During**

If you are inside a building:

- Stay Informed through local radio, television or official social media accounts. Download the [free HSEMA app](https://example.com) or [AlertDC](https://example.com) to receive updates wherever you are.
- Stay where you are until the shaking stops. Do not run outside. Do not get in a doorway as this does not provide protection from falling or flying objects, and you may not be able to remain standing.
- Drop down onto your hands and knees so the earthquake doesn’t knock you down.
- Cover your head and neck with your arms to protect yourself from falling debris.
- If you are in danger from falling objects, and you can move safely, crawl for additional cover under a sturdy desk or table.
- If there is low furniture or an interior wall or corner nearby and the path is clear, these may also provide some additional cover.
- Stay away from glass, windows, outside doors and walls and anything that could fall, such as light fixtures or furniture.
- Hold on to any sturdy covering so you can move with it until the shaking stops. Stay where you are until the shaking stops.

If getting safely to the floor to take cover won’t be possible:
- Identify an inside corner of the room away from windows and objects that could fall on you. The Earthquake Country Alliance advises getting as low as possible to the floor. People who use wheelchairs or other mobility devices should lock their wheels and remain seated until the shaking stops. Protect your head and neck with your arms, a pillow, a book, or whatever is available.
- If you are in bed when you feel the shaking:
  - If you are in bed: stay there and cover your head and neck with a pillow. At night, hazards and debris are difficult to see and avoid; attempts to move in the dark result in more injuries than remaining in bed.
  - If you are outside when you feel the shaking:
    - If you are outdoors when the shaking starts, move away from buildings, streetlights and utility wires. Once in the open, “Drop, Cover, and Hold On.” Stay there until the shaking stops. This might not be possible in a city, so you may need to duck inside a building to avoid falling debris.
- If you are in a moving vehicle when you feel the shaking:
  - If you are in a moving vehicle, stop as quickly and safely as possible and stay in the vehicle. Avoid stopping near or under buildings, trees, overpasses and utility wires. Proceed cautiously once the earthquake has stopped. Avoid roads, bridges or ramps that the earthquake may have damaged.

After:
- Stay Informed through local radio, television or official social media accounts. Download the free HSEMA app or AlertDC to receive updates wherever you are.
- When the shaking stops, look around. If there is a clear path to safety, leave the building and go to an open space away from damaged areas.
- If you are trapped, do not move about or kick up dust.
- If you have a cell phone, use it to call or text for help.
- Tap on a pipe or wall or use a whistle, if you have one, so that rescuers can locate you.
- Be prepared to “Drop, Cover and Hold on” in the likely event of aftershocks.
- Communicate with family members and friends.
- If you have a cell phone, call, text, email or use social media.
- If you have access to a computer, use an online registry such as the Red Cross website, “Safe and Well”.
- If you do not have a cell phone, use social media apps on personal gaming or tablet devices.
- If you do not have access to technology, go to your pre-designated meeting place for you to reconnect with family members or consider relaying information through friends, family or even your workplace.
Check on your neighbors. Help people who may require special assistance, such as infants, children, the elderly or people with disabilities or access and functional needs.
If you cannot return home and need shelter, follow the official information given to you by the District Government to find the nearest available shelter in your area.

Additional Resources
redcross.org/prepare/disaster/earthquake
earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/states/?region=District%20of%20Columbia

Floods:
D.C. is vulnerable to three types of flooding: riverine, coastal and interior.

Before
Use the following tips to prepare your home, family, and pets before a flood:
- Stay Informed through local radio, television or official social media accounts. Download the free HSEMA app or AlertDC to receive updates wherever you are.
- Build or re-stock your Emergency Kit.
- Make a Family Emergency Plan. Your family members may not all be in one place when a flood strikes. It is important to know how you will contact one another, how and where you will meet and what you will do in case of an emergency. Plan how to communicate if you lose power.
- Charge your cell phone so you have a full battery. Consider buying a solar or battery powered phone charger.
- Consider elevating the furnace, water heater and electric panel if you live in a high flood risk area. Find out about your flood risk.
- Consider installing "check valves" to prevent flood water from backing up into the drains of your home.

In the hours before the flood:
- Bring in outdoor furniture and move important indoor items to the highest possible floor.
- Be aware of creeks and other low-lying areas around your neighborhood prone to sudden flooding.
- If needed, place sandbags in front of your exteriors doors to prevent water from entering your home.
- If instructed, turn off your gas and electricity at the main switch or valve. This helps prevent fires and explosions.
- Store drinking water in various containers and clean bathtubs as water service may be interrupted.
- Be prepared to evacuate if necessary. Be familiar with your evacuation routes around your neighborhood.
- Fill up your car with gas. If electric power is cut off, gas stations may not be able to operate pumps for several days.
- Please refer to the District Department of Energy & Environment guidance for flooding/flood zone information.

During
Stay Informed through local radio, television or official social media accounts. Download the free HSEMA app or AlertDC to receive updates wherever you are.

Move to a safe area before access is cut off by floodwater. You may need to reach higher ground quickly and on foot.

Do not camp or park your vehicle along streams, rivers or creeks.

Do not attempt to drive over a flooded road! You could be trapped or stranded. The depth of the water is not always obvious and the road could be washed away.

Do not walk through moving water. Just six inches of moving water can knock you down.

If floodwaters rise around your car but the water is not moving, abandon the car and move to higher ground.

Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water, you could be electrocuted.

Please refer to the District Department of Energy & Environment guidance for flooding/flood zone information.

After

Stay Informed through local radio, television or official social media accounts. Download the free HSEMA app or AlertDC to receive updates wherever you are.

Return home only when authorities say it is safe to do so.

If you cannot return home and need shelter, follow the official information regarding shelters given to you by the District Government.

Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded and watch out for debris. Floodwaters often erode roads and walkways.

Stay alert for extra rainfall and flooding after the storm has ended.

Communicate with family members and friends.

If you have a cell phone, call, text, email or use social media.

If you have access to a computer, use an online registry such as the Red Cross website, “Safe and Well”.

If you do not have a cell phone, use social media apps on personal gaming or tablet devices.

If you do not have access to technology, go to your pre-designated meeting place for you to reconnect with family members or consider relaying information through friends, family or even your workplace.

Check on your neighbors. Help people who may require special assistance, such as infants, children, the elderly, or people with disabilities or access and functional needs.

Avoid walking or driving through flood waters. Just six inches of moving water can knock you down, and fast-moving water can sweep your vehicle away.

Avoid standing flood water as it may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines and may hide dangerous debris or places where the ground is washed away.

Assess damage to your home. Photograph the damage and contact your insurance company to file a claim.

Fix broken septic tanks, cesspools, pits and leaching systems as soon as you can. Damaged sewer systems are serious health problems.

Follow official information given to you by the District Government to determine if tap water is safe to drink.

Clean everything that got wet. Mud left from floodwaters can contain sewage and chemicals.
• Make sure you hire trained clean-up or repair contractors.
• Please refer to the District Department of Energy & Environment guidance for flooding/flood zone information.

Additional Resources
fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program
reddcross.org/get-help/prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/flood
floodsafety.noaa.gov/states/dc-flood.shtml
floodsafety.noaa.gov/

Hurricanes
Before
Use the following tips to prepare your home, family and pets before a hurricane:
  • Stay Informed through local radio, television or official social media accounts. Download the free HSEMA app or AlertDC to receive updates wherever you are.
  • Build or re-stock your Emergency Kit.
  • Make a Family Emergency Plan. Your family members may not all be in one place when disaster strikes. It is important to know how you will contact one another, how and where you will meet and what you will do in case of an emergency. Plan how to communicate if you lose power.
  • Charge your cell phone so you have a full battery. Consider buying a solar or battery powered phone charger.
  • Fill up your car with gas.
  • Bring pets inside. If instructed to evacuate, take your pets with you.
  • Anchor objects unsafe to bring inside (e.g., propane tanks).
  • Bring objects inside that could become projectiles in high winds (e.g. patio furniture and garbage cans).
  • If your property is flood-prone, place sandbags in appropriate locations.
  • If you have a generator, prepare it for use. Do not bring a generator inside your home or workplace.

Leave your home and evacuate the area if:
  • You are directed by local police or other authorities.
  • You are in a mobile home or temporary structure - these are extremely dangerous during high wind events and could cause serious damage, no matter how well anchored to the ground it may appear.
  • You are in a high-rise building; hurricane winds are stronger at higher levels.
  • You live along the coast, in a floodplain, near a river or on an island waterway.
  • If you cannot return home and need shelter, follow the official information given to you by the District Government to find the nearest available shelter in your area.

During
Use the following tips to keep your home, family, and pets safe during a hurricane:

If you do not evacuate:

- Stay Informed through local radio, television or official social media accounts. Download the free HSEMA app or AlertDC to receive updates wherever you are.
- Stay indoors and away from windows, skylights and glass doors.
- Close all interior doors – secure and brace external doors.
- Turn off gas, water, and power if you are directed to do so. Otherwise, turn the refrigerator thermostat to the coldest setting and keep doors closed.
- Fill a clean bathtub and other larger containers with water as water service may be interrupted.
- Keep curtains and blinds closed.
- Take shelter in a small interior room, closet, or hallway on the lowest level.
- If you are in a multi-story building, go to the first floor.
- Avoid using elevators.
- If the eye of the storm passes over your area, there will be a short period of calm. However, on the other side of the eye, the wind speed rapidly increases to hurricane force winds coming from the opposite direction. Stay indoors until officials inform you that it is safe to return outdoors.

After

Use the following tips to help your home, family and pets recover safely after a hurricane:

- Stay Informed through local radio, television or official social media accounts. Download the free HSEMA app or AlertDC to receive updates wherever you are.
- If you evacuated, wait for authorities to give you the okay to return home.
- If you cannot return home and need shelter, follow the official information given to you by the District Government to find the nearest available shelter in your area.
- Stay alert for extra rainfall and flooding after the storm has ended.
- Communicate with family members and friends.
  - If you have a cell phone, call, text, email or use social media.
  - If you have access to a computer, use an online registry such as the Red Cross website, “Safe and Well”.
  - If you do not have a cell phone, use social media apps on personal gaming or tablet devices.
  - If you do not have access to technology, go to your pre-designated meeting place for you to reconnect with family members or consider relaying information through friends, family or even your workplace.
- Check on your neighbors. Help people who may require special assistance, such as infants, children, the elderly or people with disabilities or access and functional needs.
- Avoid walking or driving through flood waters.
  - Just six inches of moving water can knock you down and fast-moving water can sweep your vehicle away.
- It may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines and may hide dangerous debris or places where the ground is washed away.
- Report any downed power lines around your home and neighborhood immediately.
- Walk carefully around the outside of your home and check for loose power lines, gas leaks and structural damage before entering.
- Keep your pets under your direct control.
- Watch for poisonous snakes. Use a stick to poke through debris rather than stepping into debris which may contain hidden risks.
- Stay out of any building if you smell gas, floodwaters remain around the building, or if your home was damaged by fire.
- Check your home for damage and photograph the damage in order to assist in filing an insurance claim.
- Collect and/or move structural debris away from walkways and other places that may pose a risk to you and your family. For debris disposal, follow information given to you by the District Government.
- Wait for the okay before drinking tap water
- Please refer to the District Department of Energy & Environment guidance for flooding/flood zone information.

### Additional Resources

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<th>URL</th>
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<tr>
<td>nhc.noaa.gov/prepare/ready.php</td>
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<tr>
<td>ready.gov/hurricanes</td>
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<td>redcross.org/prepare/disaster/hurricane</td>
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<th>Natural disaster</th>
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<tr>
<td>Florida is at risk of <strong>tropical storms and hurricanes</strong>. If there is a warning for tropical storm or hurricane, you must follow the advice provided by FSU. In occasions, you may need to be evacuated to a shelter. Resident students should follow the directions of University Housing officials concerning evacuations or sheltering-in-place of residence halls. If you plan to leave campus, advise University Housing of your plans and provide contact information. Off-campus student, faculty and staff should refer to the enclosed Hurricane Survival Guide for the Capital Area for more instructions for personal and home preparedness. ALL students, faculty, and staff should document their plans on the FSU Emergency People Locator website prior to the storm’s arrival.</td>
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<td><strong>Tornadoes</strong> – the strongest tornadoes in Florida usually occur in February, March, and April. The FSU averages about 11 tornado watches and 3 tornado warnings per year. Most of the tornadoes are EF-0 and EF-1. More rare but possible are EF-2.</td>
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More information can be found [here](#). |

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<td>In Florida, racoons, bats, foxes and unvaccinated cats are the animals most frequently diagnosed with rabies. Other animals that are at high risk for rabies include skunks, otters, coyotes, bobcats, stray or unvaccinated dogs and ferrets. Do not handle, feed or unintentionally attract wild animals with outdoor food sources such as uncovered trash or litter.</td>
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- Avoid talking on a cell phone or listening to music with earphones while walking or jogging.
- Walk or jog in well-lighted and populated areas. Avoid alleys and construction sites.
- Avoid engaging in conversation with individuals soliciting food, money.
- Never accept a ride or get too close to a car if someone is asking for directions.
- Carry a backpack, purse or bag that zips and has a cover flap with a strap(s) that can be worn across your shoulder. Avoid bags with outside compartments. Carry wallets in front, rather than rear pockets.
- **TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS!** If you feel uncomfortable, immediately proceed to the nearest well-lighted, populated area (this may be an open restaurant, store or business) and ask for help, or call 911.

### Public Transportation Safety
- Use the “buddy system” whenever possible.
- Know the bus or train schedule ahead of time to avoid waiting longer than necessary.
- Choose a stop or station that is well lit and populated.
- Choose a seat near the driver or conductor, whenever possible.
- Avoid displaying cash, electronic devices and jewelry (remove jewelry or tuck necklaces inside your clothing and turn rings around so stones are not showing).
- Stay alert! Don’t sleep on the bus or train.
- Hold on to purses, backpacks and bags. Don’t rest on the seat or floor.

### Residential Safety
- Keep your doors and windows locked, even when you are inside.
- Don’t open your door to strangers.
- Don’t let unfamiliar people into your room.
- Don’t leave notes on your door about where you are or when you will be back.
- Don’t loan your keys to anyone or place any identification on your key ring.
- Don’t prop exterior doors open or allow unfamiliar people to enter the building behind you.
- Immediately report suspicious persons or activity to your RA, Campus Safety or the police.

### Acquaintance/Date Rape Prevention
- Go to parties, clubs, and bars with a group of friends. Agree beforehand to leave together.
- Go on group dates, too.
- Never leave or go somewhere alone with someone you don’t know well.
- Don’t accept open beverages from anyone but a bartender or other professional server.
- Pour or open your own drink.
- Never leave your drink unattended. If you do, discard it and get a new one when you return.
- If you suspect that you or a friend has been drugged, call 911 or get to the nearest medical attention.
- Date rape drugs are colorless, odorless, and tasteless.
Natural Disasters

Earthquakes

Although rare in Georgia, they do occur from time to time. Georgia’s northwest counties, South Carolina border counties, and central and west central Georgia counties are most at risk.

**DURING AN EARTHQUAKE - DROP, COVER, HOLD ON**

- Drop to the ground fast, otherwise the earthquake shaking may knock you down uncontrollably.
- Cover yourself below a strong table or desk. Falling objects and collapsing structures cause many of the injuries and deaths during an earthquake. In addition, cover your head and face to protect them from broken glass and falling objects.
- Hold onto a table or desk and be prepared to move with it. Hold your position until the shaking stops.
- Do NOT run outside or use the stairways or elevators during the shaking. The entrance ways of buildings and homes are particularly dangerous because of falling bricks and debris.

Hurricanes

As a coastal state, Georgia is particularly at risk of hurricanes. Storms that form in the southern Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico have the potential to affect the state.

If a hurricane is likely in your area, you should:

- Listen to the radio or TV or download the [Ready Georgia app](#).
- Secure your home, close storm shutters and secure outdoor objects or bring them indoors.
- [Turn off utilities](#) if instructed to do so. Otherwise, turn the refrigerator thermostat to its coldest setting and keep its doors closed.
- Learn how to [keep food safe in an emergency](#).
- Turn off propane tanks.
- Avoid using the phone, except for serious emergencies.
- Moor your boat if time permits.
- Have a supply of water for sanitary purposes such as cleaning and flushing toilets. Fill the bathtub and other larger containers with water.

You should evacuate under the following conditions:

- If you are directed by local authorities to do so. Be sure to follow their instructions.
- If you live in a mobile home or temporary structure – such shelters are particularly hazardous during a hurricane no matter how well fastened to the ground.
- If you live in a high-rise building – hurricane winds are stronger at higher elevations.
- If you live on the coast, on a floodplain, near a river, or on an island waterway.
- You should be able to move your valuables within 15 minutes.

If you are unable to evacuate, go to your safe room. If you do not have one, follow these guidelines:

- Stay indoors during the hurricane and away from windows and glass doors.
- Close all interior doors – secure and brace external doors.
- Take refuge in a small interior room, closet or hallway on the lowest level. If flooding occurs, be prepared to take shelter on a floor above the flooding.
- Avoid elevators.

**Tornadoes**

Tornadoes are nature’s most violent storms. They can appear without warning and can be invisible until dust and debris are picked up or a funnel cloud appears.

**WHEN A TORNADO WATCH IS ISSUED**

- Monitor NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio or television for the latest weather forecasts, or download the Ready Georgia app.
• Be alert to changing weather conditions. Blowing debris or the sound of an approaching tornado may alert you. Many people say it sounds like a freight train.
• Make sure you know where you would seek shelter if a tornado warning was issued.
• If you are in a mobile home, consider moving to a sturdy building (shelter). If a tornado warning is issued, you will not have much time to act.

WHEN A TORNADO WARNING IS ISSUED

• If you are inside, put on sturdy shoes and go to a safe place and protect yourself from glass and other flying objects.
• If you are outside, hurry to a safe place in a nearby sturdy building.
• If you are in a car and you see large objects flying past while you are driving, pull over and park. You now have two choices:
  • Stay in the car with the seat belt on. Put your head down below the windows, covering with your hands and a blanket if possible.
  • If you can safely get noticeably lower than the level of the roadway, in a deep ditch for instance, exit your car and lie in that area, covering your head with your hands.
• If you live in an apartment that is on an upper floor, get to the lowest level of the building

Thunderstorms and lighting

Georgia’s greatest threats from severe thunderstorms are damaging straight-line winds and large hail. Straight-line winds can reach speeds in excess of 58 mph and produce damage similar to a tornado. These winds occur about 75 days per year in Georgia and are most common in the spring and summer months, peaking in July.

DURING A THUNDERSTORM

• If there is a thunderstorm in the area, go quickly inside a home, building, or hard top automobile, if possible.
• If shelter is not available, go to the lowest area nearby.
• If on open water, get to land and shelter immediately.
• Listen to a battery-operated NOAA Weather Radio or radio for the latest updates.
• Avoid taking a shower or a bath during a thunderstorm. Plumbing and bathroom fixtures can conduct electricity.
• Do not use electrical items such as computers or television sets as power surges from lightning can cause serious damage.
A corded telephone should only be used in an emergency, but cordless phones and cell phones are safe to use.

Things to avoid include:

- Tall or isolated trees or other tall objects
- Hilltops, open fields, the beach, a pool, a boat on the water, isolated sheds or other small structures in open areas.
- Anything metal — wires, metal fences, tractors, farm equipment, motorcycles, golf carts, golf clubs, and bicycles.

Crime

The Department of Homeland Security defines an active shooter as “an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area; in most cases, active shooters use firearm(s) and there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims.”

These incidents happen quickly and are usually over within 10 to 15 minutes. Everyone must be prepared to react quickly to an active shooter situation.

Every active shooter/person with a weapon incident is different. You will have to quickly evaluate the situation and choose the best course of action. If you become aware of an active shooter, you have three options: **RUN, HIDE, or FIGHT.**

Tips from Georgia Tech on staying safe:

- **When Walking** – Avoid walking alone whenever possible. Avoid areas where there are tall shrubs or hedges and avoid shortcuts through wooded areas. Also avoid poorly lit streets, alleys, vacant lots, and parking areas. Walk near the curb on the side of the street facing traffic when there is no sidewalk available. Familiarize yourself with the Stinger bus routes and schedules and the Stingerette service. If transportation service is not available, call the Campus Police at 404.894.2500 for a safety escort to avoid walking alone at night.
- **At Home** – Safety measures in residence halls include outside doors that lock automatically. Keep the door to your room locked as well. If you live in a house or apartment, make certain the door is equipped with a peephole and a dead bolt lock with a one-inch throw. Request identification from anyone doing repair work and verify the identity of strangers before allowing them in.
- **If You Are Attacked** – No single strategy always works. The choice of whether to fight back can be made only by you. Sometimes the best options may be to scream, blow a whistle, run, or just make any kind of loud noise. If the assailant is armed, your choices are
limited; there is no way to predict his or her actions. Research shows that getting into a car of an assailant will likely have grave results. If you decide to fight back, attempt to scratch your assailant on the face or in the eyes with combs, keys, nail files, or pens if you can, or bite or kick. If you decide to fight back, fully commit until you can escape, and then try to get a good description and direction of travel of the assailant. Contact the police as soon as it is safe to do so.

Theft: The most frequently reported crimes are those involving theft of personal or institutional property. Always secure your belongings and never leave them unattended. Keep a record of your valuables and engrave them when possible. Engraving is available at the Georgia Tech Police Department.

Laptop Thefts: Never leave your laptop unattended or in a vehicle – not even for a few minutes to get a cup of coffee or go to the bathroom! If you must leave it in a vehicle, secure it in the trunk. Never leave your laptop in a room or office that is unlocked. Do not store sensitive information on your laptop. Consider purchasing insurance for your laptop and use a locking device to secure your laptop. Ask laptop manufacturers about security devices available for your laptop.
Earthquake

There are two primary "hot spots" for earthquakes in the central United States that will impact Illinois, specifically in the south and southeastern parts of the state.

- New Madrid Seismic Zone lies within the central Mississippi Valley, from Cairo, Illinois, through southeastern Missouri, western Kentucky, western Tennessee and northeast Arkansas. The epicenter of the zone is located just west and northwest of Memphis, Tennessee.

Historically, this area has been the site of some of the largest earthquakes in North America. Between 1811 and 1812, four catastrophic earthquakes with magnitude estimates greater than 7.0 occurred during a three-month period. Hundreds, if not thousands, of aftershocks followed over a period of several years.

- Wabash Valley Seismic Zone, in southeastern Illinois and southwestern Indiana, is capable of producing ‘New Madrid’ size earthquake events. The epicenter of the zone is located between Mt. Vernon, Illinois, and West Franklin, Indiana (in Posey County).

Since the discovery of this seismic zone, earthquake awareness and preparedness have increased. Geologists in Indiana and Illinois have found liquefaction sites and sand dikes that show evidence of prehistoric earthquakes in the region.

Whether you are in your home, a school classroom, a high-rise or other type of building, it is important to know how to protect yourself during an earthquake. Practice what to do during an earthquake with your family members so you can react automatically when the shaking starts.

If you are indoors, follow these steps:

Drop -- Drop down to the floor.

Cover -- Take cover under a sturdy desk, table or other furniture. If that is not possible, seek cover against an interior wall and protect your head and neck with your arms. Avoid danger spots near windows, hanging objects, mirrors or tall furniture.
Hold -- If you take cover under a sturdy piece of furniture, hold on to it and be prepared to move with it. HOLD the position until the ground stops shaking and it is safe to move.

If you are outside when the shaking starts, get into an open area away from trees, buildings, walls and power lines. If driving, stop safely as soon as possible. Do not stop under overpasses or bridges. Turn off the engine and turn on the radio. Stay inside your vehicle below window level until the shaking stops. Do not get out of your vehicle if downed power lines have fallen across it.

**Severe weather**

Illinois experiences diverse weather patterns throughout the year. You should be aware of the types of weather that affect Illinois, the different advisories that precede hazardous weather, and the preparations to take for severe conditions.

Learn More

- Winter Storms
- Extreme Temperatures
- Floods
- Thunderstorms
- Tornadoes

**Crime**

Learn the Run, Hide, Fight strategy for active aggressor situations [in this brief video](#) from the Florida State University Police Department. The majority of incidents being reported at FSU are related to property and theft. You can track these [in this map](#)

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- Limit the carrying of money, personal identification, credit, and debit cards. Only carry what you need.
• Record the serial number of your valuables, especially laptop computers. If valuables are stolen, serial numbers are needed for the police report.

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• Use the “buddy system” whenever possible. Avoid walking or jogging alone.
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• Walk confidently and with a purpose.
• Avoid talking on a cell phone or listening to music with earphones while walking or jogging.
• Walk or jog in well-lighted and populated areas. Avoid alleys and construction sites.
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• Never accept a ride or get too close to a car if someone is asking for directions.
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• TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS! If you feel uncomfortable, immediately proceed to the nearest well-lighted, populated area (this may be an open restaurant, store or business) and ask for help, or call 911.

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• Avoid displaying cash, electronic devices and jewelry (remove jewelry or tuck necklaces inside your clothing and turn rings around so stones are not showing).
• Stay alert! Don’t sleep on the bus or train.
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• Keep your doors and windows locked, even when you are inside.
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- If you suspect that you or a friend has been drugged, call 911 or get to the nearest medical attention.
- Date rape drugs are colorless, odorless, and tasteless.
## Earthquake

Although very rare, Indiana can be affected by both the New Madrid and Wabash Valley seismic zones. Unlike other emergencies, the procedures to deal with an earthquake are much less specific. Since earthquake magnitude cannot be predetermined, everyone must initiate emergency precautions within a few seconds after the initial tremor is felt, assuming the worst possible case.

The best earthquake instruction is to take precautions before the earthquake (e.g., secure or remove objects above you that could fall during an earthquake).

During the earthquake remain calm and ACT, don’t react.

1. If indoors, DROP to the floor under a desk or table or in a doorway; COVER your head and face with your arms, and HOLD on. Stay away from windows, shelves, and heavy equipment.
2. Do not use elevators.
3. If outdoors, move quickly away from buildings, utility poles, overhead wires, parking garages and other structures. CAUTION: Avoid downed power or utility lines as they may be energized. Do not attempt to enter buildings until you are advised to do so by Purdue Police or Fire Department personnel.
4. If in an automobile, stop in the safest place available, preferably an open area away from power lines and trees. Stop as quickly as safety permits and stay in the vehicle for the shelter it provides.

### AFTER THE INITIAL SHOCK:

1. Be prepared for aftershocks. Aftershocks are usually less intense than the main quake, but can cause further structural damage.
2. Protect yourself at all times.
3. Evaluate the situation and call 911 for emergency assistance, if necessary.
4. Do not use flares, torches, lighted cigarettes, or open flames, since gas leaks could be present.
5. Open windows, etc., to ventilate the building. Watch out for broken glass.
6. If a fire is caused by the earthquake, implement the FIRE PROCEDURES.
7. Determine whether anyone has been caught in the elevators or was trapped by falling objects. If so, call 911.
8. If the structural integrity appears to be deteriorating rapidly, evacuate the building.
9. DO NOT USE THE TELEPHONE UNLESS IT IS NECESSARY FOR EMERGENCIES.
   1. Heavy use of the telephone will tie up the lines and prevent emergency calls from going out.
10. Damaged facilities should be reported to Purdue Dispatch Center at 494-8221.
11. Should you become trapped in a building, stay calm!
   1. If a window is available, place an article of clothing (shirt, coat, etc.) outside the window as a marker for rescue crews.
   2. If there is no window, tap on the wall at regular intervals to alert emergency crews of your location.
   3. Emergency Personnel will check buildings immediately after a major quake.

Tornadoes

Tornadoes are probably one of the most common natural disasters in Indiana. Tornado season is in the spring and summer months (May is the month with the most tornadoes on average).

WHAT TO DO DURING A TORNADO WARNING:

1. Move to the pre-determined shelter location as designated in your Building Emergency Plan.
   1. The shelter location is normally, the basement, sub walk or lowest level of the building away from windows and exterior doors.
   2. Interior hallways and restrooms on the lowest level offer the next best shelter.
      ▪ Be prepared to kneel facing the wall and cover your head.
2. In a high-rise building, vacate the top floors and move to a lower floor or basement.
   1. If not able to reach the basement, go to an interior room, hallway, or restroom with no windows on the lowest floor possible.
      ▪ Be prepared to kneel facing the wall and cover your head.
3. If time permits, occupants of wood-frame or brick buildings with wood floors should leave the building and go directly to a more substantial concrete building, preferably with a basement.
4. Share notification with others; assist persons with disabilities, if possible.
5. Try and obtain additional clarifying information by all means possible (e.g., Purdue Campus Emergency Status Webpage, TV, radio, text message, email, etc.)
   1. It would be useful to have a cell phone, hard-wired telephone, or computer system in the shelter location to assist in obtaining additional information as well as being able to report any life-threatening conditions.
6. If in a vehicle, get out and seek sheltering a sturdy building. If a building is not available, lying flat in a depression such as a ditch or ravine offers some protection. Be aware of potential flooding.
7. Watch out for flying debris; do not call 911 unless you require emergency assistance.
Crime

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These incidents happen quickly and are usually over within 10 to 15 minutes. Everyone must be prepared to react quickly to an active shooter situation.

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• If you suspect that you or a friend has been drugged, call 911 or get to the nearest medical attention.
• Date rape drugs are colorless, odorless, and tasteless.
Floods are probably the most common hazard the affect the state. Two types of flooding have been identified: Flash Floods and River Basin Floods. Flash floods have occurred in all months of the year, but they are more prevalent during spring and summer months. River Basin Flooding is more common during winter and early Spring - February to April. Flooding of this nature is common along Kentucky's major streams, particularly along the Ohio, Mississippi, Licking, Big Sandy, Cumberland, Green, Rolling Fork and Kentucky Rivers, along with other smaller streams. Cities such as Frankfort, Louisville, Owensboro, Paducah Hazard, Prestonsburg, Lebanon Junction and New Haven have been seriously affected by past flooding. Every two to three years serious flooding occurs along one or more of Kentucky's major streams, and it is to unusual for this to occur several years in succession.

During a Flood:
If a flood is likely in your area, you should:
- Listen to the radio or television for more information.
- Be aware that flash flooding can occur. If there is any possibility of a flash flood, move immediately to higher ground. Do not wait for instructions to move.
- Be aware of stream, drainage channels, canyons and other areas known to flood suddenly. Flash floods can occur in these areas with or without typical warnings such as rain clouds or heavy rain.

If you must prepare to evacuate, you should do the following:
- Secure your home. If you have time, bring in outdoor furniture. Move essential items to an upper floor.
- Turn off utilities at the main switches or valves if instructed to do so. Disconnect electrical appliances. Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water.

If you have to leave your home, remember these evacuation tips:
- Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.
- Do not drive into flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground if you can do so safely. You and the vehicle can be swept away quickly.
- Do no camp or park your vehicle along streams, rivers or creeks, particularly during threatening conditions.

After the Flood:
Your home has been flooded. Although floodwaters may be down in some areas, many dangers still exist. Here are some things to remember in the days ahead:
Use local alerts and warning systems to get information and expert informed advice as soon as available.

Avoid moving water.

Stay away from damaged areas unless your assistance has been specifically requested by police, fire, or relief organization.

Emergency workers will be assisting people in flooded areas. You can help them by staying off the roads and out of the way.

Play it safe. Additional flooding or flash floods can occur. Listen for local warnings and information. If your car stalls in rapidly rising waters, get out immediately and climb to higher ground.

Return home only when authorities indicate it is safe.

Roads may still be closed because they have been damaged or are covered by water. Barricades have been placed for your protection. If you come upon a barricade or flooded road, go another way.

If you must walk or drive in areas that have been flooded:
  - Stay on firm ground. Moving water only 6 inches deep can sweep you off your feet. Standing water may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.
  - Flooding may have caused familiar places to change. Floodwaters often erode roads and walkways. Flood debris may hide animals and broken bottles, and it’s also slippery. Avoid walking or driving through it.

Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded. Roads may have weakened and could collapse under the weight of a car.

Stay out of any building if it is surrounded by floodwaters.

Use extreme caution when entering buildings; there may be hidden damage, particularly in foundations.

Staying Healthy
A flood can cause physical hazards and emotional stress. You need to look after yourself and your family as you focus on cleanup and repair.

- Avoid floodwaters; water may be contaminated by oil, gasoline or raw sewage.
- Service damaged septic tanks, cesspools, pits and leaching systems as soon as possible. Damaged sewer systems are serious health hazards.
- Listen for news reports to learn whether the community’s water supply is safe to drink.
- Clean and disinfect everything that got wet. Mud left from floodwaters can contain sewage and chemicals.
- Rest often and eat well.
- Keep a manageable schedule. Make a list and do jobs one at a time.
- Discuss your concerns with others and seek help. Contact Red Cross for information on emotional support available in your area.

Tornadoes:
Tornadoes may occur in any part of the state at any time of year. However, the western and central portions have been more frequently struck, and the months of March, April and May seem to have the most severe tornadoes. Tornadoes have been recorded in the state as far
back as 1830, but they seem to have become more frequent in recent years. Since 1950, there has been an annual average of 8.4 tornadoes in Kentucky. There were 19 tornadoes reported in 1973; in 1974 there were a total of 34. Injuries, damages and fatalities attributed to tornadoes have also been on the increase in recent years. In 1971 there were 9 deaths and some 130 injuries from tornadoes; in 1974 there were 76 tornado fatalities and approximately 1,000 personal injuries from the exceptionally high number of tornadoes which affected the State that year.

If a TORNADO WARNING is issued or a tornado occurs:

- Move to your pre-designated Storm Shelter Area immediately.
- If your Storm Shelter Area is unavailable:
  - Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside. Get under a sturdy table and use arms to protect head and neck.
  - Stay away from windows and open spaces. Stay there until the danger has passed.
  - Do not open windows.
  - In a high-rise building, go to a small, interior room or hallway with no windows on the lowest floor possible.
- Get out of vehicles, trailers and mobile homes immediately and go to the lowest floor of a sturdy nearby building or a storm shelter.
- If caught outside with no shelter:
  - Immediately get into a vehicle, buckle your seat belt and try to drive to the closest sturdy shelter.
  - If your vehicle is hit by flying debris while you are driving, pull over and park.
  - Stay in the car with the seat belt on. Put your head down below the windows; cover your head with your hands and a blanket, coat or other cushion if possible.
  - Do not get under an overpass or bridge. You are safer in a low, flat location.
  - Never try to outrun a tornado in urban or congested areas in a car or truck. Instead, leave the vehicle immediately for safe shelter.
  - Watch out for flying debris. Flying debris from tornadoes causes most fatalities and injuries.

After a Tornado:
Injury may result from the direct impact of a tornado or it may occur afterward when people walk among debris and enter damaged buildings. A study of injuries after a tornado in Marion, Illinois, showed that 50 percent of the tornado-related injuries were suffered during rescue attempts, cleanup and other post-tornado activities. Nearly a third of the injuries resulted from stepping on nails. Because tornadoes often damage power lines, gas lines or electrical systems, there is a risk of fire, electrocution or an explosion. Protecting yourself and your family requires promptly treating any injuries suffered during the storm and using extreme care to avoid further hazards.

Injuries
Check for injuries. Do not attempt to move seriously injured people unless they are in immediate danger of further injury. Get medical assistance immediately. If someone has stopped breathing, begin CPR if you are trained to do so. Stop a bleeding injury by applying direct pressure to the wound. Have any puncture wound evaluated by a physician. If you are trapped, try to attract attention to your location.

General Safety Precautions
Here are some safety precautions that could help you avoid injury after a tornado:
- Continue to monitor your battery-powered radio or television for emergency information.
- Be careful when entering any structure that has been damaged.
- Wear sturdy shoes or boots, long sleeves and gloves when handling or walking on or near debris.
- Be aware of hazards from exposed nails and broken glass.
- Do not touch downed power lines or objects in contact with downed lines. Report electrical hazards to the police and the utility company.
- Use battery-powered lanterns, if possible, rather than candles to light homes without electrical power. If you use candles, make sure they are in safe holders away from curtains, paper, wood or other flammable items. Never leave a candle burning when you are out of the room.
- Never use generators, pressure washers, grills, camp stoves or other gasoline, propane, natural gas or charcoal-burning devices inside your home, basement, garage or camper - or even outside near an open window, door or vent. Carbon monoxide (CO) - an odorless, colorless gas that can cause sudden illness and death if you breathe it - from these sources can build up in your home, garage or camper and poison the people and animals inside. Seek prompt medical attention if you suspect CO poisoning and are feeling dizzy, light-headed or nauseated.
- Hang up displaced telephone receivers that may have been knocked off by the tornado, but stay off the telephone, except to report an emergency.
- Cooperate fully with public safety officials.
- Respond to requests for volunteer assistance by police, fire fighters, emergency management and relief organizations, but do not go into damaged areas unless assistance has been requested. Your presence could hamper relief efforts and you could endanger yourself.

If a SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING is issued or a severe thunderstorm occurs:
- Use your battery-operated NOAA Weather Radio for updates from local officials.
- Avoid contact with corded phones. Use a corded telephone only for emergencies. Cordless and cellular telephones are safe to use.
- Avoid contact with electrical equipment or cords. Unplug appliances and other electrical items such as computers and turn off air conditioners. Power surges from lightning can cause serious damage.
- Avoid contact with plumbing. Do not wash your hands, do not take a shower, do not wash dishes, and do not do laundry. Plumbing and bathroom fixtures can conduct electricity.
- Stay away from windows and doors, and stay off porches.
- Do not lie on concrete floors and do not lean against concrete walls.
- Avoid natural lightning rods such as a tall, isolated tree in an open area.
- Avoid hilltops, open fields, the beach or a boat on the water.
- Take shelter in a sturdy building. Avoid isolated sheds or other small structures in open areas.
- Avoid contact with anything metal—tractors, farm equipment, motorcycles, golf carts, golf clubs, and bicycles.
If you are driving, try to safely exit the roadway and park. Stay in the vehicle and turn on the emergency flashers until the heavy rain ends. Avoid touching metal or other surfaces that conduct electricity in and outside the vehicle.

After a Thunderstorm or Lightning Strike:
If lightning strikes you or someone you know, call 9-1-1 for medical assistance as soon as possible. The following are things you should check when you attempt to give aid to a victim of lightning:
- Breathing - if breathing has stopped, begin mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.
- Heartbeat - if the heart has stopped, administer CPR.
- Pulse - if the victim has a pulse and is breathing, look for other possible injuries. Check for burns where the lightning entered and left the body. Also be alert for nervous system damage, broken bones and loss of hearing and eyesight.

After the storm passes remember to:
- Never drive through a flooded roadway. Turn around, don’t drown!
- Stay away from storm-damaged areas to keep from putting yourself at risk from the effects of severe thunderstorms.
- Continue to listen to a NOAA Weather Radio or to local radio and television stations for updated information or instructions, as access to roads or some parts of the community may be blocked.
- Help people who may require special assistance, such as infants, children and the elderly or those with access or functional needs.
- Stay away from downed power lines and report them immediately.
- Watch your animals closely. Keep them under your direct control.

Earthquake

Kentucky has not experienced an earthquake of major proportions since 1812. However, it poses a great hazard to certain regions of the state, in particular the Jackson Purchase region makes this a high “seismic risk” zone. The Wabash Valley Seismic Zone, located along the southern Indiana-Illinois border, also has the potential to affect Kentucky and the surrounding region.

During an Earthquake:
If Indoors:
- DROP to the ground; take COVER by getting under a sturdy table or other piece of furniture; and HOLD ON until the shaking stops. If there isn’t 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 glass, windows, outside doors and walls, and anything that could fall, such as lighting fixtures or furniture.
- Stay in bed if you are there when the earthquake strikes. Hold on and protect your head with a pillow, unless you are under a heavy light fixture that could fall. In that case, move to the nearest safe place.
• Do not use a doorway except if you know it is a strongly supported, load-bearing doorway and it is close to you. Many inside doorways are lightly constructed and do not offer protection.

• Stay inside until the shaking stops and it is safe to go outside. Do not exit a building during the shaking. Research has shown that most injuries occur when people inside buildings attempt to move to a different location inside the building or try to leave.

• DO NOT use the elevators.

• Be aware that the electricity may go out or the sprinkler systems or fire alarms may turn on.

If Outdoors:

• Stay there.

• Move away from buildings, streetlights, and utility wires.

• Once in the open, stay there until the shaking stops. The greatest danger exists directly outside buildings, at exits and alongside exterior walls. Many of the 120 fatalities from the 1933 Long Beach earthquake occurred when people ran outside of buildings only to be killed by falling debris from collapsing walls. Ground movement during an earthquake is seldom the direct cause of death or injury. Most earthquake-related casualties result from collapsing walls, flying glass, and falling objects.

If in a Moving Vehicle:

• Stop as quickly as safety permits and stay in the vehicle. Avoid stopping near or under buildings, trees, overpasses, and utility wires.

• Proceed cautiously once the earthquake has stopped. Avoid roads, bridges, or ramps that might have been damaged by the earthquake.

If Trapped Under Debris:

• Do not light a match.

• Do not move about or kick up dust.

• Cover your mouth with a handkerchief or clothing.

• Tap on a pipe or wall so rescuers can locate you. Use a whistle if one is available. Shout only as a last resort. Shouting can cause you to inhale dangerous amounts of dust.

After an earthquake:

• When the shaking stops, look around to make sure it is safe to move. Then exit the building.

• Expect aftershocks. These secondary shockwaves are usually less violent than the main quake but can be strong enough to do additional damage to weakened structures and can occur in the first hours, days, weeks, or even months after the quake.

• Help injured or trapped persons. Remember to help your neighbors who may require special assistance such as infants, the elderly and people with access and functional needs. Give first aid where appropriate. Do not move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger of further injury. Call for help.

• Look for an extinguish small fires. Fire is the most common hazard after an earthquake.

• Listen to a battery-operated radio or television for the latest emergency information.

• Be aware of possible tsunamis if you live in coastal areas. These are also known as seismic sea waves (mistakenly called "tidal waves"). When local authorities issue a tsunami warning, assume that a series of dangerous waves is on the way. Stay away from the beach.
- Use the telephone only for emergency calls.
- Go to a designated public shelter if your home had been damaged and is no longer safe. Text SHELTER + your ZIP code to 43362 (4FEMA) to find the nearest shelter in your area (example: shelter 12345).
- Stay aware from damaged areas. Stay away unless your assistance has been specifically requested by police, fire, or relief organizations. Return home only when authorities say it is safe.
- Be careful when driving after an earthquake and anticipate traffic light outages.
- After it is determined that it's safe to return, your safety should be your primary priority as you begin clean up and recovery.
- Open cabinets cautiously. Beware of objects that can fall off shelves.
- Find out how to keep food safe during and after an emergency by visiting: [http://foodsafety.gov/keep/emergency/index.html](http://foodsafety.gov/keep/emergency/index.html)
- Put on long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, sturdy shoes and work gloves to protect against injury from broken objects.
- Clean up spilled medicines, bleaches, gasoline or other flammable liquids immediately. Leave the area if you smell gas or fumes from other chemicals.
- Inspect the entire length of chimneys for damage. Unnoticed damage could lead to a fire.
- Inspect utilities.
  - Check for gas leaks. If you smell gas or hear blowing or hissing noise, open a window and quickly leave the building. Turn off the gas at the outside main valve if you can and call the gas company from a neighbor’s home. If you turn off the gas for any reason, it must be turned back on by a professional.
  - Look for electrical system damage. If you see sparks or broken or frayed wires, or if you smell hot insulation, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker. If you have to step in water to get to the fuse box or circuit breaker, call an electrician first for advice.
  - Check for sewage and water lines damage. If you suspect sewage lines are damaged, avoid using the toilets and call a plumber. If water pipes are damaged, contact the water company and avoid using water from the tap. You can obtain safe water by melting ice cubes.

### Crime

The Department of Homeland Security defines an active shooter as “an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area; in most cases, active shooters use firearm(s) and there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims.”

These incidents happen quickly and are usually over within 10 to 15 minutes. Everyone must be prepared to react quickly to an active shooter situation.
Every active shooter/person with a weapon incident is different. You will have to quickly evaluate the situation and choose the best course of action. If you become aware of an active shooter, you have three options: **RUN, HIDE, or FIGHT.**

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• Don’t leave notes on your door about where you are or when you will be back.
• Don’t loan your keys to anyone or place any identification on your key ring.
• Don’t prop exterior doors open or allow unfamiliar people to enter the building behind you.
• Immediately report suspicious persons or activity to your RA, Campus Safety or the police.

Acquaintance/Date Rape Prevention
• Go to parties, clubs, and bars with a group of friends. Agree beforehand to leave together.
• Go on group dates, too.
• Never leave or go somewhere alone with someone you don’t know well.
• Don’t accept open beverages from anyone but a bartender or other professional server.
• Pour or open your own drink.
• Never leave your drink unattended. If you do, discard it and get a new one when you return.
• If you suspect that you or a friend has been drugged, call 911 or get to the nearest medical attention.
• Date rape drugs are colorless, odorless, and tasteless.
**State: LOUISIANA**  
**University: Tulane University; Louisiana State University**

### Natural disaster

As a coastal state, Louisiana faces the possible threat from **hurricanes and tropical storms** each June through November. Students should follow university advice and prepare when warnings are issued. Residents are reminded to stay tuned to local radio, television and universities’ website for updated information. Students should remain away from dangerous areas, such as the glass windows and doors in lobby areas of the residence halls or the living room apartments; do not attempt to go outside, alcoholic beverages or other substances that impair judgements are prohibited.

It is imperative that students develop an evacuation plan and be ready to implement a plan if a storm threatens the New Orleans area.

Louisiana also faces possible threats for **tornadoes and flooding**. You can use this resource to plan ahead and take action: [https://www.ready.gov/](https://www.ready.gov/). You must also follow advice from your host university and / or local authorities. Do not put yourself at risk.

### Health

Louisiana has reported the most cases of the **West Nile Virus** in the country. West Nile virus (WNV) is the leading cause of mosquito-borne disease in the continental United States. It is most commonly spread to people by the bite of an infected mosquito. Cases of WNV occur during mosquito season, which starts in the summer and continues through fall. There are no vaccines to prevent or medications to treat WNV in people. Fortunately, most people infected with WNV do not feel sick. About 1 in 5 people who are infected develop a fever and other symptoms. About 1 out of 150 infected people develop a serious, sometimes fatal, illness. You can reduce your risk of WNV by using insect repellent and wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants to prevent mosquito bites.

### Crime

The number one crime on campus is theft. The easiest and best way to protect your computers, mobile devices and other belongings is to be on guard and lock them up. Always lock your doors and windows.

You can [watch a video](https://www.ready.gov/) of how to stay safe at LSU and how to sign up for emergency alerts.

If you are going to New Orleans during Mardi Gras, please be vigilant and watch out for pickpockets.

### Theft Prevention
• Don’t leave personal property (purses, backpacks, laptop computers, cell phones) unattended in classrooms, libraries, lounges, restrooms, corridors, or any public areas. Take personal items with you or ask someone you know and trust to watch the items for you.
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• Record the serial number of your valuables, especially laptop computers. If valuables are stolen, serial numbers are needed for the police report.

Street Safety
• Use the “buddy system” whenever possible. Avoid walking or jogging alone.
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• Avoid talking on a cell phone or listening to music with earphones while walking or jogging.
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• Avoid engaging in conversation with individuals soliciting food, money.
• Never accept a ride or get too close to a car if someone is asking for directions.
• Carry a backpack, purse or bag that zips and has a cover flap with a strap(s) that can be worn across your shoulder. Avoid bags with outside compartments. Carry wallets in front, rather than rear pockets.
• TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS! If you feel uncomfortable, immediately proceed to the nearest well-lighted, populated area (this may be an open restaurant, store or business) and ask for help, or call 911.

Public Transportation Safety
• Use the “buddy system” whenever possible.
• Know the bus or train schedule ahead of time to avoid waiting longer than necessary.
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• Choose a seat near the driver or conductor, whenever possible.
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• Stay alert! Don’t sleep on the bus or train.
• Hold on to purses, backpacks and bags. Don’t rest on the seat or floor.

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• Keep your doors and windows locked, even when you are inside.
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• Don’t loan your keys to anyone or place any identification on your key ring.
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- Pour or open your own drink.
- Never leave your drink unattended. If you do, discard it and get a new one when you return.
- If you suspect that you or a friend has been drugged, call 911 or get to the nearest medical attention.
- Date rape drugs are colorless, odorless, and tasteless.
Natural Disaster

Earthquake

Massachusetts is located in a moderate earthquake zone. Although these quakes typically cause only insignificant or mild damage, larger earthquakes are possible, and could cause serious damage to buildings and public infrastructure. Because of this, it is important to know some simple safety rules if the ground begins to shake.

Inside a Building

1. Get under a sturdy piece of furniture such as a desk if available, cover your head and neck with your arms and hold on until the shaking stops.
2. Stay away from windows, hanging objects or tall furniture that can topple over or fall off the wall. Expect fire alarm and sprinkler systems to activate.
3. Stay where you are until the shaking stops.
4. After the shaking stops, evacuate the building. DO NOT use elevators.

Outdoors:

1. Move to a clear area away from trees, poles and buildings.
2. Drop to your knees and get into a fetal position, close your eyes and cross your arms over the back of your neck for protection. Stay in this position until the shaking stops.
3. If in a moving vehicle pull to the side of the road as quickly as possible but keep away from overhead hazards such as buildings, trees, overpasses, and utility wires. Stay in the vehicle. Once the shaking has stopped, proceed with caution. Avoid bridges or ramps that might have been damaged by the quake.

After Shaking Stops:

1. Evacuate the building, taking your keys, wallet, purse and emergency supplies.
2. Watch for people who are injured, trapped or need assistance. Provide assistance where possible. Do not move seriously injured persons and notify response workers to their location.
3. Do not re-enter any building until declared safe by emergency authorities.
4. Be prepared for aftershocks.

**Flood**

Flooding is the most common hazard in Massachusetts. Some floods develop slowly, while flash floods can occur within minutes or hours after a storm or containment system break.

If you see or hear threatening weather (ie: tornado, high winds, lightning, thunder, etc) or hear that a warning has been issued for your area…

1. Seek shelter and get inside immediately to an interior room or hallway.
2. Shut all doors and windows.
3. Stay away from exterior windows and doors.
4. DO NOT go outside until the storm has passed.
5. After the storm has ended be aware of downed wires and falling objects.
6. Do not re-enter the building until cleared to do so by emergency personnel.
7. If you witness an explosion in another building call UMPD at 413-545-2121 immediately to report the explosion.

**Crime**

In the event of an active threat, although on campus university remains remote, follow the RUN-HIDE-FIGHT protocol. You are encouraged to watch this [video](#) that presents information on how to respond to an active shooter situation.

**Theft Prevention**

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- Walk or jog in well-lighted and populated areas. Avoid alleys and construction sites.
- Avoid engaging in conversation with individuals soliciting food, money.
- Never accept a ride or get too close to a car if someone is asking for directions.
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- Date rape drugs are colorless, odorless, and tasteless.
**State: MICHIGAN**  
**University: University of Michigan**

### Natural disaster

Michigan weather can change at any moment. Be prepared in the event of a tornado or **severe thunderstorm** with these tips from the University of Michigan:

- Register for emergency alerts.
- Seek shelter and monitor local broadcast until an “all clear” message has been issued.
- Do not use large room with high ceilings or rooms with an outside wall/windows as safe shelter.
- Follow local authority advice.

### Crime

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• If you suspect that you or a friend has been drugged, call 911 or get to the nearest medical attention.
• Date rape drugs are colorless, odorless, and tasteless.
Earthquakes: St Louis is in the New Madrid Seismic Zone, which has experienced three of the largest earthquakes in the US in 1800’s.

How to prepare before it happens: Prepare for an earthquake by taking a few minutes to identify safe spots and potential danger zones in your area such as:

- Top-heavy, free-standing items that could topple.
- Heavy or breakable items on high shelves.
- Heavy items hung on the wall or ceiling near the work area.

What to do when it happens: If you are inside

- Stay put and DROP. Take COVER under a sturdy piece of furniture.
- HOLD ON until the shaking stops.
- After the shaking stops, if the building is unsafe, gather outside at your Emergency Assembly Point (see links on this page). If you hear a hissing sound, or smell gas, leave the building.
- Never take an elevator.

If you are outside:

- Avoid trees, power lines and other overhead hazards.
- Move to an open area, if possible.
- Drop to the ground until the shaking stops.

If you are in a vehicle:

- Pull over and stop your car.
- Do not stop on overpasses, underpasses or bridges.
- Stay in the vehicle until the shaking stops.
What to do right after it happens

- Check yourself and others in your area for injuries.
- Be prepared for aftershocks. Each time one occurs, DROP, COVER and HOLD ON.
- Monitor local radio, television, social media or emergency.wustl.edu to get news and instructions.

Additional resource: FEMA's Preparedness Program

**Tornadoes**: Common in the Midwest. These violently spinning columns of air, with rotating speeds that can exceed 200mph, can leave a destructive path more than a mile wide and several miles long. The St. Louis area is very susceptible to tornadoes. Even with improved warning times, it is critical to know how to quickly respond when the warnings go out.

Tornado watch: issued when weather conditions are favorable for the development of tornadoes in and close to the watch area. Watch areas are typically large and may cover multiple counties or even states.

Tornado warning: issued when a tornado or funnel cloud has already been spotted, or if there are radar indications that a tornado may be possible. Seek shelter immediately.

How to prepare **before** it happens

- Know where the best area of refuge is for your work area. It is typically the lowest, most interior space that can be readily available. When identifying your area, try to avoid doors, windows and outside walls. Examples include basement, inside hallway or interior rooms.
- Keep at least one flashlight with extra batteries on hand.
- Keep at least one battery operated radio on each floor to use only in an emergency.
- Keep a NOAA weather radio at a location that will allow alerts from the radio to be heard by occupants in the work area.

What to do **when** it happens

- Seek shelter to the pre-designated area of refuge. Bring a flashlight and radio, if accessible.
- Get under heavy furniture and protect your head and neck by covering them with your arms.
## What to do right after it happens

- If the building has sustained damage, get out as safely as possible. Go to your Emergency Assembly Point (see links on this page).
- Report building damage and injuries to the appropriate emergency numbers.
  - Danforth Campus: 314-935-5555
  - School of Medicine: 314-362-4357
  - North/West/South Campus & Tyson Research: 911 then 314-935-5555
- Be aware of new hazards created by the tornado such as exposed nails, broken glass, ruptured gas lines, etc.
- Do not touch power lines.
- Continue to monitor the radio.

## Additional resources

- [FEMA's Preparedness Program — Tornadoes](#)

## Crime

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Every active shooter/person with a weapon incident is different. You will have to quickly evaluate the situation and choose the best course of action. If you become aware of an active shooter, you have three options: **RUN, HIDE, or FIGHT**.

## Theft Prevention

- Don’t leave personal property (purses, backpacks, laptop computers, cell phones) unattended in classrooms, libraries, lounges, restrooms, corridors, or any public areas. Take personal items with you or ask someone you know and trust to watch the items for you.
- Limit the carrying of money, personal identification, credit, and debit cards. Only carry what you need.
- Record the serial number of your valuables, especially laptop computers. If valuables are stolen, serial numbers are needed for the police report.

Street Safety
- Use the “buddy system” whenever possible. Avoid walking or jogging alone.
- Be alert and aware of your surroundings at all times.
- Walk confidently and with a purpose.
- Avoid talking on a cell phone or listening to music with earphones while walking or jogging.
- Walk or jog in well-lighted and populated areas. Avoid alleys and construction sites.
- Avoid engaging in conversation with individuals soliciting food, money.
- Never accept a ride or get too close to a car if someone is asking for directions.
- Carry a backpack, purse or bag that zips and has a cover flap with a strap(s) that can be worn across your shoulder. Avoid bags with outside compartments. Carry wallets in front, rather than rear pockets.
- TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS! If you feel uncomfortable, immediately proceed to the nearest well-lit, populated area (this may be an open restaurant, store or business) and ask for help, or call 911.

Public Transportation Safety
- Use the “buddy system” whenever possible.
- Know the bus or train schedule ahead of time to avoid waiting longer than necessary.
- Choose a stop or station that is well lit and populated.
- Choose a seat near the driver or conductor, whenever possible.
- Avoid displaying cash, electronic devices and jewelry (remove jewelry or tuck necklaces inside your clothing and turn rings around so stones are not showing).
- Stay alert! Don’t sleep on the bus or train.
- Hold on to purses, backpacks and bags. Don’t rest on the seat or floor.

Residential Safety
- Keep your doors and windows locked, even when you are inside.
- Don’t open your door to strangers.
- Don’t let unfamiliar people into your room.
- Don’t leave notes on your door about where you are or when you will be back.
- Don’t loan your keys to anyone or place any identification on your key ring.
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- Go to parties, clubs, and bars with a group of friends. Agree beforehand to leave together.
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# Royal Robbery Safety Tips

## Four Ways to Increase Your Personal Safety

1. Reduce or eliminate opportunities that may make you a target.
2. Increase awareness in places you're most comfortable.
3. Trust your instincts regardless of feeling embarrassed.
4. Prepare your schedule daily with safety in mind.

## Purse / Wallet Safety

Carry purses, portfolios or briefcases in a manner that will allow you to let go. Straps placed across your shoulder, around your neck or wrapped around your waist have caused injuries because women could not free themselves during a purse snatch.

Always be aware of your surroundings and carry your pocketbook clasp toward you, close to your body, tucked in the bend of your elbow as if it were a football. If there is a long strap, wrap it around the bag.

If someone attempts to snatch your pocket book, let go of it, especially if there is a weapon involved. When dining out, the only place for your purse should be your lap. The back of a chair is an easy target for a thief. Never carry a wallet in a rear pocket; use a front trouser or an inside coat pocket.

Be particularly aware of your purse/wallet in crowded situations, such as rush-hour trains and buses. If you are jostled in a crowd, be aware that a pickpocket might be responsible. Beware of arguments or commotions designed to distract you while your pocket or purse is being picked.

Minimize the amount of money, credit cards and valuables you carry by only taking items that are necessary for the day. Divide money between your purse/wallet and pockets. Carry your keys on your person separate from your identification.

Walking — Be Street Smart: Use well-populated and well-lit streets. If you suspect you're being followed, stay away from deserted blocks and head for an area where there are people or to the nearest open store. If you're driven home, ask the driver to wait until you are safely
inside. Should a motorist bother you while you are walking, reverse your direction. If you are still followed, seek a safe location and yell for help, if possible.

Driving: Upon approaching your car, look to make sure no one is hiding in or around the vehicle, especially in the back seat. Check your tires for flats. Keep windows rolled up, except for a small opening for ventilation and keep the doors locked at all times.

Keep valuables secured in the trunk, not lying on the seat next to you. Put your purse on the floor of your car. Plan your route before you leave. Displaying a map will send a message that you're unfamiliar with the area.

When stopped in traffic, always leave enough space between your car and the one in front of you. This will allow you to pass easily, if necessary. Keep your car well maintained and the gas tank at least half full to avoid getting stranded.

Should you suspect that you are being followed, make several turns down active streets. If the vehicle continues to follow, head for the nearest police station, fire house, or open store. Avoid driving to your home. If someone attempts to force you off the road, remain calm and blow your horn continuously to attract attention. If forced off the road, stop, put your car in reverse and back away.

Parking Your Vehicle: Park in a well-lit area to discourage a personal attack and reduce the risk of your car being stolen. Look around before exiting your car. Close all windows and lock the doors. Take any valuables with you.

At Home: Have your keys ready before you get to the door. Make sure your entrance area is well lit. If you live in an apartment, close the lobby door behind you, especially if a stranger is approaching. Make all visitors and delivery persons use the door bell. Place your name on the inside of the mailbox where only the mail-carrier will see it. If a name must be on the outside, use only the last name, e.g., the Smiths.

When recording an outgoing message on your answering machine, avoid leaving your name, phone number or a message that you're not at home. A good message is, "We are unable to answer the phone, please leave a message." Say it confidently.

If a stranger asks to use the phone, keep your door locked and tell them you will place the call for them. If there is an emergency, call 9-1-1. Keep him/her out of your home. Should you arrive home and find signs of a burglary, stay out. Call 9-1-1 from a pay phone or a neighbor's house. Wait there for the police to arrive.

Elevators: When waiting for an elevator, leave the lobby/hallway if someone makes you feel uncomfortable.
Check the elevator’s mirror before entering. Stand between the control panel and door when in the elevator. Exit the elevator if someone enters that makes you feel uneasy. If you feel the need to give an excuse, you can say, “Oh, I forgot my mail.” If accosted, press as many buttons as possible to try and get the elevator to stop at the next floor.

Subway and Bus: Use only entrances marked by a green indicator, where there is a clerk present 24 hours a day. Have your money or metro card available. Use designated waiting areas during off-peak hours. Ride in the conductor's car during off-peak hours. Sit in the center of the car, away from the door, to avoid a purse or chain snatch.

Cover jewelry; turn stone rings toward the palm side of your hand. Stay awake and aware and exit with the crowd. Wait and walk close to the wall. Wait for the bus on the sidewalk away from the curb. Sit near the front of the bus. Be aware of your wallet/purse to avoid a pickpocket.

ATMs: Be aware of suspicious people near the entrance. Use well-lit, well-populated ATMs. Avoid ATMs that have unlocked doors or are directly out on the street. Block a bystander's view when doing your transaction. Use mirrors, positioned at the ATM, to see behind you. Put your money away and take your card and receipt before exiting an ATM. Your card is exclusively for your entry only. Make sure the door closes behind you.

RUN. HIDE. FIGHT: Surviving an Active Shooter Event. The City of Houston Mayor's Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security has released this short video, which emphasizes a short mantra—RUN, HIDE, FIGHT—to help people remember their options.

Increase in Thefts of Electronics Devices on the Subway System: The New York City Police Department (NYPD) has notified the Office of Campus and Community Safety Services at Brooklyn College that there has been an increase in thefts of electronic devices on the subway system. Whenever possible, subway riders should refrain from using electronic devices such as iPods, iPads, cell phones, etc. These devices should be secreted on your person and not in public view. Thieves are targeting individuals with the devices in plain sight. Be aware of your surroundings at all times. View our guide on personal safety tips.

Message from the NYPD: Subway crime is at historic lows in New York City, but don't take safety for granted. Keep your electronic devices out of sight and stay alert. The New York City Police Department has released a video regarding Electronic Device Safety.
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Residential Safety
- Keep your doors and windows locked, even when you are inside.
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- If you suspect that you or a friend has been drugged, call 911 or get to the nearest medical attention.
- Date rape drugs are colorless, odorless, and tasteless.
## Natural disaster

### Wildfire:

New Mexico faces an above average overall threat from wildfire. Here are some resources on fire safety: [https://srs.unm.edu/fire-safety/student-guidebook.html](https://srs.unm.edu/fire-safety/student-guidebook.html), [https://nmfireinfo.com/smoke-management/](https://nmfireinfo.com/smoke-management/).

## Crime

UNM is pleased to present **Campus Safety 101**, a crime prevention video for students. This short 15-minute video highlights the most critical aspects of campus safety for new and returning students residing on campus.

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Natural disaster

Thunderstorm:

A severe thunderstorm is one which may produce large hail (dime sized or larger) or damaging winds (gusts of 58 mph or more). Although lightning can be deadly, it is not a criterion for what the National Weather Service defines as severe since any ordinary thunderstorm can produce a lot of lightning. Likewise, excessive rainfall may lead to flash flooding, but heavy rain is not a criterion for the term severe.

A tornado watch means conditions are favorable for severe thunderstorms that may be capable of producing a tornado, while a tornado warning means a tornado is occurring or imminent.

Preparing for a Thunderstorm

- Get an emergency supply kit.
- Remove dead or rotting trees and branches that could fall and cause injury or damage during a severe thunderstorm.
- Use the 30/30 lightning safety rule. If you see lightning and you cannot count to 30 before hearing thunder, go indoors. Then stay indoors for 30 minutes after hearing the last clap of thunder.

Have a Thunderstorm Plan

- If a thunderstorm is likely in your area, postpone outdoor activities.
- Secure outdoor objects that could blow away or cause damage.
- Avoid showering or bathing during a thunderstorm. Plumbing and bathroom fixtures can conduct electricity.
- Watch for darkening skies, lightning, increasing winds.
- Go quickly inside a home, building or hard top automobile, if possible.
- If shelter is not available go to the lowest area nearby and make yourself the smallest target possible but do not lie flat on the ground.

Flood:

Flooding is the nation's most common natural disaster. Flooding can happen anywhere. However, all floods are not alike. Some can develop slowly during an extended period of rain, or in a warming trend following a heavy snow. Others, such as flash floods, can occur quickly, even
without any visible signs of rain. Be prepared for flooding no matter where you live, but particularly if you are in a low-lying area, near water or downstream from a dam. Even a very small stream or dry creek bed can overflow and create flooding.

Prepare for Flooding

- Get a kit of emergency supplies and prepare a portable kit in case you have to evacuate.
- Unplug electrical appliances, moving them to higher levels, if possible. However, do not touch an electric appliance if you are wet or standing in water.
- If you have a car, fill the gas tank in case you have to evacuate.

Stay Informed

- Local authorities may not immediately be able to provide information on what is happening and what you should do. However, you should listen to NOAA Weather Radio, watch TV, listen to the radio or check the Internet often for official news and instructions as they become available.
- If it has been raining hard for several hours or if it has been raining steadily for days there may be the potential for flooding. Use common sense and available information. If water is rising quickly or you see a moving wall of mud or debris, immediately move to higher ground.
- Stay out of flood waters, if possible. The water may be contaminated or electrically charged. However, should you find yourself trapped in your vehicle in rising water get out immediately and seek higher ground.
- Stay away from downed power lines to avoid the risk of electric shock or electrocution.

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Natural disasters

Earthquakes: awareness of earthquakes in the state of Oregon has increased in recent years due in large part to the widespread publicity about the Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake fault and its capability to generate M9.0 mega earthquakes. If you feel an earthquake:

1. Protect yourself (Drop, Cover and Hold-on). Evacuate the building as soon as you deem it safe.
   - Stay away from glass
   - Do not use a doorway unless you know it is a load-bearing doorway
   - Do not exit the building while shaking is going on. Falling debris can kill you
   - Do not use elevators
   - Do not pull fire alarm

2. If outside during the shaking, move away from buildings or other objects that could fall

3. Bring only items you can easily grab, including backpacks especially packed with emergency gear, coat, hat, phone, essentials (e.g. handbag).

Earthquake response actions: **Video - Drop/Cover/Hold, If in a Theater, If no desk or sturdy object, if near Coast**

Volcano: There are 19 volcanoes in the state of Oregon (Cascade Mountains). Volcanoes, like most earthquakes, are related to tectonic plate motion. Volcanoes can present many hazards, including clouds of hot gases carrying rock and sand, blast effects, ash falls, and mud flows. On the positive side, it can be said that, unlike earthquakes, volcanoes generally give plenty of warning that they are awakening—although the actual moment of eruption may come as an unpleasant surprise.

Following an eruption, ash may take weeks to settle from the air. This fine powder is quite harmful to lungs and incredibly abrasive to moving parts of any machinery or engine. The weight of wet ash can collapse a building.

Pyroclastic flows are sensational aspects of some volcanic eruptions. In such events, superhot, burning gas is suddenly pumped into the air to fall back to earth as a heavy cloud that moves across the landscape at hundreds of miles per hour, devastating everything in its path. Even though pyroclastic flows were known to geologists, they were only rarely witnessed and not filmed until the 1980s, when they were captured on videotape in Japan. In 1902 over 30,000 people in the village of St. Pierre on Martinique were incinerated by a pyroclastic flow, and more
recently the island of Monserrat experienced the same phenomenon, fortunately without loss of life. In Oregon, deposits from pyroclastic flows are a frequent part of the geologic record east of the Cascades.

Before the 1980 Mount St. Helens episode, the incidence and impact of lateral eruptions was poorly understood. During this event, the northeastward blast knocked down trees and increased damage significantly. Since then, it has been found that lateral blasts are not uncommon in Cascade volcanoes. An urban center in the path of such a force would be totally devastated. In Oregon, there are very few populated areas that would be affected by a lateral blast.

More information can be found here: [https://www.volcanodiscovery.com/oregon.html](https://www.volcanodiscovery.com/oregon.html) and here [https://www.oregongeology.org/volcano/volcanoes.htm](https://www.oregongeology.org/volcano/volcanoes.htm)

**Wildfire**: Forest and brush fires (wild fires) are a danger in many dry areas. High winds can cause fires to spread very rapidly. Areas of high risk are canyons, hills and forests. Monitor local media reports and follow the advice of local law enforcement officials. Exercise caution in areas which have been recently affected by wild fires as they are more susceptible to mudslides during heavy rainfall. For more information visit the [National Interagency Fire Centre](https://www.nifc.gov/) and [US Geospatial Multi-Agency Coordination Group](https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/) websites

### Wildlife

Don’t be tempted to get close to animals and don’t feed them. Bears, squirrels, raccoons and other species are opportunistic feeders. If they see or smell food, they will try to get to it. Store all food and garbage in bear-proof containers and pack it out, including suntan lotion, soap and toiletries. Cougars are native to Oregon and range all over the state, in the unlikely event you come face to face with a cougar, experts say to stand your ground, maintain eye contact, speak loudly and use your arms to make yourself appear larger. If the big cat attacks, which is rare, the ODFW recommends you “fight back with rocks, sticks, garden tools or any other items available.” Other dangerous wildlife animals are:

- **Rattlesnakes**: There are two subspecies of Western rattlesnake in Oregon, the state’s only venomous snake. The Northern Pacific subspecies can be found in southwestern Oregon, in the middle and southern Willamette Valley, and in the Columbia Plateau, while the Great Basin subspecies hangs out in south central and southeastern Oregon. You’ll know when you’re near one as it’s the only snake with a rattle on the tail. Though they are the one of the most feared snakes on the planet, rattlesnakes mostly just want to be left alone and will rarely, if ever, advance on a human.
- **Ticks**: Oregon is home to roughly 20 species of tick, but only four of those are looking to attach themselves to you. You are most likely to encounter these critters east of the Cascades and in Southern Oregon at lower elevations, usually in late spring or early summer. Ticks wait at the top of tall grasses for warm-blooded animals, including hikers, to pass by and attach themselves.
wherever they can find a place to clamp down their jaws. While finding a tick embedded in your flesh is unsightly, the bugs can also carry and transmit illnesses like Lyme disease, which, if left untreated, can have some pretty dire ramifications. Prompt removal is highly recommended.

- Black Bears: In the event you encounter a bear, stay calm and do not run or make sudden movements, back away slowly, avoid direct eye contact. In the unlikely event you are attached, fight back. Shout, be aggressive, and use rocks, stick and tools to fend off an attack.
- Scorpions: They are rare but can be found in the low deserts of the Columbia Basin.
- Wolves: You are unlikely to come across one. Experts say the only time wolves become dangerous is when they feel their pups are threatened or if they get acclimated to people. To keep them safe, the ODFW says not to feed wolves or other animals they wish to prey upon and recommends keeping all food secure while camping.
- Porcupines: Porcupines can generally be found in the eastern half of Oregon, though a few sightings have been reported west of the Cascades. Mostly nocturnal animals, the animals can sometimes be seen during the day feeding in trees or doing other porcupine things. They don’t typically go looking for trouble, but each one is covered in up to 30,000 sharp, barbed quills that will ruin the day of any hiker, camper or pet unlucky enough to be on the receiving end. If you or your pet does end up stabbed by a quill, the best course of action is to seek out a doctor or veterinarian to remove them. It’s also worth noting that porcupines “are intelligent and are able to learn quickly,” according to the ODFW. “They have good memories and especially remember being mistreated.”

You can also look at this website for poisonous plants: https://www.oregonlive.com/travel/2016/05/can_you_identify_the_poisonous.html#0

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- Use the “buddy system” whenever possible. Avoid walking or jogging alone.
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- Walk confidently and with a purpose.
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- Pour or open your own drink.
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- If you suspect that you or a friend has been drugged, call 911 or get to the nearest medical attention.
- Date rape drugs are colorless, odorless, and tasteless.
Natural disaster

Flooding is the most frequent and damaging natural disaster that occurs in Pennsylvania. Many of Pennsylvania’s communities are located along waterways. This was due in part to our early reliance on water for transportation and then as an energy source for industry. Many low-lying areas were developed long before science identified these areas as flood plains. As such, homes and personal property, business and industry, and public infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, railways and public utilities may be at risk of flood related damage and loss. The immediate economic loss and community disruption from flooding is frequently compounded when flood-damaged businesses elect not to rebuild. Since 1970, there have been more than 20 presidentially declared major disasters triggered by flooding. Always follow university and local advice is flooding occurred. You can get prepared with these tips from Ready Gov: [https://www.ready.gov/floods](https://www.ready.gov/floods)

Numerous winter storms occur throughout the Commonwealth each year. While most do not cause major economic disruption or destruction, severe snowstorms and icing can endanger lives by stranding motorists, disrupting the power supply and isolating rural populations. Since 1970, severe winter storms triggered at least eight gubernatorial disaster declarations. Of that number three resulted in federal aid authorized by the president.

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Earthquakes

The Puget Sound region is seismically active, with hundreds of earthquakes occurring every year. Most of these earthquakes are so small they can only be detected by sensitive instruments. However, damaging earthquakes have occurred in this region during the past 130 years. The danger and risks of earthquakes can be reduced if people know what actions to take before, during and after an earthquake.

During an earthquake

If you are indoors:

- Stay indoors!
- **DROP, COVER and HOLD ON!** Drop to the ground; take cover by getting under a sturdy table, bench or desk and hold on. If there isn’t a table or desk near you, cover your face and head with your arms and crouch down into a ball next to an interior wall.* Move away from windows that may break and furniture or large objects that could fall over.
- Be aware that the electricity may go out and fire alarms and sprinkler systems may activate.
- If you are in bed stay there! Hold on and put a pillow over your head for protection.
- If you are in a theater or stadium, stay in your seat or get under it if possible, and protect your head with your arms. Do not try to leave until the shaking is over.
- If you are in a crowded room or public place, do not rush for exits. Move away from display shelves holding objects that could fall on you and “drop, cover and hold.”
- Do not use elevators.

If you are outdoors:

- Stay outdoors!
- Move to an open area away from trees, buildings, utility poles and lines, or signs.
- If you are in a downtown area, on a sidewalk near a tall building, get inside the building’s lobby to protect yourself from falling bricks, glass or other debris.
- Greatest danger exists directly outside buildings at exits and alongside exterior walls.
If you are driving:

- Pull to the side of the road as quickly as possible, but keep away from overhead hazards such as trees, buildings, utility poles and lines, signs, and bridges. Stay in the vehicle until the shaking stops.

**Recommended earthquake preparedness and safety actions**

**Key Earthquake Safety Tips for People with Disabilities or Access and Functional Needs**

After an earthquake

- Check yourself and those around you for injuries.
- Evaluate for yourself, or wait for instructions from your Building Coordinator, to determine if evacuation is necessary.
  - If the building seems largely unscathed, stay where you are.
  - If there are noticeable cracks in the wall, windows are broken, or you can smell natural gas (rotten eggs), then proceed with evacuation protocols.
- If you need to evacuate, collect all personal belongings to take with you. Look for signs of building damage or for persons who are injured or trapped, on your way out. Watch for falling objects as you leave the building.
- Be prepared for aftershocks.
- Go to your department Evacuation Assembly Point, tell your supervisor or department floor warden that you are out of the building and report injured or trapped persons and any signs of building damage you observed.
- Turn on a battery-powered or vehicle radio if available for information.
- If possible, do not use the phone for local calls, except emergencies, during the first 15-30 minutes after the earthquake. Overloading the phone system with calls may delay the delivery of emergency assistance.

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Flash flood:

South central Texas, including the Austin metropolitan area, is considered the flash flood capital of the United States. This weather hazard is the top weather hazard in the area because of the hilly nature of the adjoining Texas Hill Country, subsoil limestone layers, and the increased urbanization of the area. People driving across flooded low-water crossings during heavy rain events in our area results in deaths, injuries, and rescues every year. General Guidelines:

- When heavy rain threatens, get out of areas subject to flooding. This includes creeks, streams, dips, washes, low spots, canyons, as well as low water crossings.
- Do not camp or park vehicles along streams and creeks, particularly during threatening weather.
- Avoid already flooded and high velocity flow areas. Do not cross, on foot or in your vehicle, quickly flowing creeks, streams, or low water crossings, especially if you do not know the water depth.
- Road beds may not be intact in low water crossings during flash flood episodes. Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.
- If your vehicle stalls in high water, leave it immediately and seek high ground.

Local Considerations for the UT Campus: The threat of flash flooding on our campus is pretty much limited to areas around Waller Creek, which crosses our campus. During periods of heavy rain, avoid low-lying areas. Listen to the advice of campus officials regarding areas where flooding is occurring and avoid these areas.

Lightning:

With an average of 40 to 45 thunderstorm days a year in Austin, lightning is a dangerous atmospheric hazard. Lightning is especially hazardous given that the local area is popular for those involved in outdoor recreation and activities. In addition, lightning can strike up to 10 to 15 miles away from the parent thunderstorm so that people can be struck even outside of the main precipitation area of the thunderstorm. General Guidelines:

- If you hear thunder, you are close enough to the thunderstorm to be struck by lightning. Go to safe shelter immediately.
- Go to a steady building or to an automobile. Do not take shelter in small sheds, under isolated trees, or in convertible automobiles. Stay out of boats and away from water.
- If shelter is not available, find a low spot away from trees, fences, and poles. In wooded areas, take shelter under shorter trees.
- Telephone lines and metal pipes can conduct electricity. Unplug appliances not necessary for obtaining weather information. Avoid using corded telephones or any electrical appliances. When in your home, do not take a bath or shower.
- If you feel your skin begin to tingle or your hair starts to stand on end, squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Place your hands on your knees with your head between your knees and hands. Make yourself the smallest target possible; minimize your contact with the ground.

Local Considerations for the UT Campus: It is easy to remain safe during lightning episodes when thunderstorms are overhead or in the vicinity of the campuses by simply staying or remaining inside of buildings or in your vehicle. When thunderstorms develop or move onto campus, you may wish to wait out the thunderstorm before moving between buildings (even during class changes). Remember that lightning can strike even from storms as far as 10 to 15 miles away from the parent thunderstorm. Special considerations should be given to the hazard when considering outdoor events and activities.

**Tornadoes:**

Tornadoes are more common in areas of the central and southern plains of the United States well to the north of the Austin area. Even so, we have seen our share of tornadoes and they are considered to be a threat. Tornadoes, except in the most severe cases, tend to produce a relatively narrow convergent damage pattern. Most wind damage associated with thunderstorms is not related to tornadoes, but instead to straight-line thunderstorm winds. General Guidelines:

- When tornadoes threaten, you should leave automobiles and mobile homes for more substantial shelter.
- In substantial shelter, you should put as many walls between you and the tornado as you can. This means that interior bathrooms, hallways, and closets on the lowest floor are the best place to be. If it is available, move to a below-ground shelter, such as a basement.
- Stay away from windows.
- Do not try to outrun a tornado in your automobile.
- If caught outside or in a vehicle with an approaching tornado, lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression (away from your vehicle if you are leaving it).

Local Considerations for the UT Campus: Tornado safety is based upon avoiding windblown debris when tornadoes are nearby. The common thread in safety rules is putting as many walls as you can between you and the tornado and always on the lowest floor of the building as you can safely get to before the tornado strikes. All building safety plans for tornadoes are centered on these guidelines. On our campuses, always move to interior hallways on the lowest floor possible in all buildings, away from glass and shelter in place.
### Tropical Cyclones:

Austin is located about 140 miles inland from the Texas coast. Even so, tropical cyclone (hurricanes, tropical storms, tropical depressions) are still a threat, especially with slow-moving weaker systems that tend to produce flooding, as well as quicker moving intense systems that can bring sustained winds to and above hurricane force to the Austin area. Tropical tornadoes, associated with fast moving rain bands within the tropical cyclone, are also a big threat. General Guidelines:

- Even though we are more than 100 miles inland from the coast, landfalling hurricanes can still be a serious threat.
- Depending on the track of the storm: 
  - High winds, even hurricane force winds, can occur locally.
  - Torrential rains can cause severe flash and river flooding.
  - Sudden, quick moving tornadoes are common with landfalling hurricanes, even hundreds of miles inland.
  - Evacuees from coastal areas will move inland into our area. Roadways may become congested along with a corresponding shortage of hotel and other living spaces. Shelters may be set up throughout our area.

Local Considerations for the UT Campus: Although we most commonly think of hurricane force winds occurring in coastal areas, in a category 5 hurricane making landfall on the middle Texas coast and moving inland to overhead or just southwest of the Austin area, we could see several hours of hurricane force winds (75 to 110 mph) even in the Austin metropolitan area and the UT campus. Again, safety rules would center upon going into interior hallways on the lowest floor possible and remaining there during these types of events. You should also be aware of the threats of hurricane related tornadoes and flash floods.

### Health

#### West Nile Virus:

Most people infected with West Nile virus – about 80% - will not develop illness. Twenty percent of infected people develop a typically mild form of the disease (West Nile fever), which may include fever, headache, body aches, and occasionally a skin rash on the trunk of the body and swollen lymph glands. Only about one out of 150 people infected with West Nile virus will develop the more severe form of the disease (West Nile neuroinvasive disease), which may affect the brain and spinal cord. The signs and symptoms of severe disease may include headache, high fever, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, and paralysis.

The incubation period of West Nile virus in humans is two to 14 days. Signs and symptoms of mild disease may last a few days. Signs and symptoms of severe disease may last several weeks or months, although neurological effects may be permanent. Rarely, death can occur.
Preventing mosquito bites is the best way to avoid the West Nile virus.

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- Carry a backpack, purse or bag that zips and has a cover flap with a strap(s) that can be worn across your shoulder. Avoid bags with outside compartments. Carry wallets in front, rather than rear pockets.
- TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS! If you feel uncomfortable, immediately proceed to the nearest well-lighted, populated area (this may be an open restaurant, store or business) and ask for help, or call 911.

**Public Transportation Safety**

- Use the “buddy system” whenever possible.
- Know the bus or train schedule ahead of time to avoid waiting longer than necessary.
- Choose a stop or station that is well lit and populated.
- Choose a seat near the driver or conductor, whenever possible.
- Avoid displaying cash, electronic devices and jewelry (remove jewelry or tuck necklaces inside your clothing and turn rings around so stones are not showing).
- Stay alert! Don’t sleep on the bus or train.
- Hold on to purses, backpacks and bags. Don’t rest on the seat or floor.

**Residential Safety**

- Keep your doors and windows locked, even when you are inside.
- Don’t open your door to strangers.
- Don’t let unfamiliar people into your room.
- Don’t leave notes on your door about where you are or when you will be back.
- Don’t loan your keys to anyone or place any identification on your key ring.
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**Acquaintance/Date Rape Prevention**

- Go to parties, clubs, and bars with a group of friends. Agree beforehand to leave together.
- Go on group dates, too.
- Never leave or go somewhere alone with someone you don’t know well.
- Don’t accept open beverages from anyone but a bartender or other professional server.
- Pour or open your own drink.
- Never leave your drink unattended. If you do, discard it and get a new one when you return.
- If you suspect that you or a friend has been drugged, call 911 or get to the nearest medical attention.
- Date rape drugs are colorless, odorless, and tasteless.
Earthquakes

The Puget Sound region is seismically active, with hundreds of earthquakes occurring every year. Most of these earthquakes are so small they can only be detected by sensitive instruments. However, damaging earthquakes have occurred in this region during the past 130 years. The danger and risks of earthquakes can be reduced if people know what actions to take before, during and after an earthquake.

During an earthquake

If you are indoors:

- Stay indoors!
- **DROP, COVER and HOLD ON!** Drop to the ground; take cover by getting under a sturdy table, bench or desk and hold on. If there isn’t a table or desk near you, cover your face and head with your arms and crouch down into a ball next to an interior wall.* Move away from windows that may break and furniture or large objects that could fall over.
- Be aware that the electricity may go out and fire alarms and sprinkler systems may activate.
- If you are in bed stay there! Hold on and put a pillow over your head for protection.
- If you are in a theater or stadium, stay in your seat or get under it if possible, and protect your head with your arms. Do not try to leave until the shaking is over.
- If you are in a crowded room or public place, do not rush for exits. Move away from display shelves holding objects that could fall on you and “drop, cover and hold.”
- Do not use elevators.

If you are outdoors:

- Stay outdoors!
- Move to an open area away from trees, buildings, utility poles and lines, or signs.
- If you are in a downtown area, on a sidewalk near a tall building, get inside the building’s lobby to protect yourself from falling bricks, glass or other debris.
- Greatest danger exists directly outside buildings at exits and alongside exterior walls.
If you are driving:

- Pull to the side of the road as quickly as possible, but keep away from overhead hazards such as trees, buildings, utility poles and lines, signs, and bridges. Stay in the vehicle until the shaking stops.

**Recommended earthquake preparedness and safety actions**

**Key Earthquake Safety Tips for People with Disabilities or Access and Functional Needs**

After an earthquake

- Check yourself and those around you for injuries.
- Evaluate for yourself, or wait for instructions from your Building Coordinator, to determine if evacuation is necessary.
  - If the building seems largely unscathed, stay where you are.
  - If there are noticeable cracks in the wall, windows are broken, or you can smell natural gas (rotten eggs), then proceed with evacuation protocols.
- If you need to evacuate, collect all personal belongings to take with you. Look for signs of building damage or for persons who are injured or trapped, on your way out. Watch for falling objects as you leave the building.
- Be prepared for aftershocks.
- Go to your department Evacuation Assembly Point, tell your supervisor or department floor warden that you are out of the building and report injured or trapped persons and any signs of building damage you observed.
- Turn on a battery-powered or vehicle radio if available for information.
- If possible, do not use the phone for local calls, except emergencies, during the first 15-30 minutes after the earthquake. Overloading the phone system with calls may delay the delivery of emergency assistance.

**Winter weather:**

Puget Sound can expect a severe winter storm once every 3-4 years. These types of winter storms (ice or wet, heavy and sticky snow) can grind the whole city to a halt, shutting down transportation systems, and placing demands on the power systems. During these types of storms, accidents rise among those who try to drive and can trap people at home or work.
During

- Stay safe, warm, dry and calm.
- Do not drive unnecessarily. Of deaths related to ice and snow, 70 percent occur when people are stranded in cars or involved in accidents. If you must drive, bring necessary supplies.
- Dress warmly enough to prevent frostbite and hypothermia.
- Do not go outside if you don’t have to.
- [Check the most current Pacific Northwest Radar from the UW before heading out the door.](#)

In a car or truck

- In extreme cold or in heavy snow, stay with your car until you can be rescued.
- Run the motor about ten minutes each hour for heat.
- Open the window a little for fresh air to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Make sure the exhaust pipe is not blocked, which would cause dangerous fumes to backup inside the car.
- Make yourself visible to rescuers. Tie a bright cloth to your antenna or door to alert rescuers.
- Turn on your dome light, at night, when running the engine.
- Raise the hood indicating trouble after snow stops falling.
- Exercise from time to time by vigorously moving arms, legs, fingers and toes to keep blood circulating and to keep warm.

**Extreme and Severe weather:**

The Pacific Northwest annually receives the least amount of thunderstorm days compared to any other region of the country. There are three basic phases in the life-cycle of a thunderstorm, and the various hazards a thunderstorm can produce are present at different times.

- Stage 1: Winds, lighting
- Stage 2: Winds, rainfall / flooding, lighting and hail.
- Stage 3: Winds, flooding, lighting and hail.

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Natural disasters

Severe Storm (thunderstorms and tornadoes)

While not in an especially tornado-heavy part of the United States, Wisconsin still experiences, on average, 23 tornadoes per year. The high winds and severe storms that can accompany tornadoes pose serious health hazards to the people of Wisconsin. Wisconsin Thunderstorm and Tornado Toolkit (PDF) - This toolkit provides general information and guidance for severe thunderstorms and tornadoes including general information, talking points, and message maps for local public health partners.

Flooding:

Spring is the highest season for flooding. Our interactive mapping tool can help local, regional, and state entities prepare for and respond to flooding events. To learn how to use it, you can watch a tutorial and listen to our webinar.

Winter weather:

Winter storms can sweep through bringing high winds, large amounts of accumulating and drifting snow, ice, and extreme cold temperatures. Being prepared ahead of a storm will help you get through it safely. Protect yourself by wearing loose layers of clothing underneath a wind and weather resistant coat. Look for symptoms of hypothermia including shivering, exhaustion, confusion, and slurred speech. Assembling an emergency supply kit both at home and in your car during winter can save your life if there is a severe winter storm or extreme cold.

Health

Wisconsin is generally becoming warmer and wetter. Changes in the climate may lead to more flooding and precipitation, temperature extremes (very hot and very cold days), drought, and more carriers of disease (such as mosquitoes and ticks). These trends could allow for an increase in diseases spread by mosquitoes and ticks. Learn more about simple ways to protect yourself from mosquitoes and ticks on the Enjoy the Outdoors - Bug-free page.

In Wisconsin, we’re most concerned about:

- **West Nile virus (WNV)**
La Crosse/California encephalitis (LAC/CA)
Jamestown Canyon virus (JCV)
St. Louis encephalitis (SLE)
Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE)

Some tips to protect yourself:

- Use effective mosquito repellent and apply according to the label instructions.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, socks, and shoes.
- Mosquitoes may bite through thin clothing, so spraying clothes with a repellent containing permethrin or DEET will give extra protection. These repellants are the most effective and most studied.
- Avoid being outside during times of high mosquito activity, specifically around dawn and dusk.
- Keep window screens repaired so that mosquitoes cannot enter your home.
- Dispose of discarded tires, cans, or plastic containers left outside that may contain standing water.
- Drain standing water from pool or hot tub covers.
- Turn over plastic wading pools and wheel barrows when not in use.
- Change the water in bird baths, pet dishes and wading pools every 3-4 days.
- Keep drains, ditches and culverts clean of trash and weeds so water will drain properly.
- Clean gutters to ensure they drain properly.

For more information, view Using Insect Repellants Safely - CDC.

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