

## EMERGENCY DRILLS

When an emergency alert is released from the Jackson-Hinds Emergency Operations Center via alert radio receivers notifying schools of an emergency condition due to threat of attack or other natural and/or man-made emergency conditions, the procedures are to be followed as the alert message dictates.

The outdoor sirens which are strategically located in the Jackson area are used by the Jackson-Hinds Emergency Operations Center to inform the public of emergency conditions.

### Section I: ALERT AND WARNING SIGNALS

#### Alert Signals

The alert signal is a three (3) to five (5) minute steady blast of the sirens. This signal will be used in a time of threatened natural disaster or peacetime emergency.

Directions: Turn on your radio to any local radio station and follow instructions. Be alert to communications and directions transmitted on the radio alert receiver. Do not use the telephone for further information.

#### Attack Signal:

On the outdoor warning signals, the attack warning signal is a 3 to 5 minute wavering sound. This means an enemy attack against the United States has been detected.

Directions Take protective action. Take shelter immediately. Turn on your radio to 620 on your dial. Be alert to communications and directions on the radio alert receivers. Do not use the telephone to obtain further information.

### Section II: WARNINGS DEFINED WITH DIRECTIONS

#### Severe Thunderstorms

Frequent lighting and damaging winds with gust greater than 58 miles per hour (50 knots) or hail three-quarters of an inch or larger.

Severe thunderstorms are sometimes accompanied by unexpected tornado activity, and so the same procedures as given for a "Tornado Watch" should be followed.

### Tornado Watch

This is an alert that tornado activity may occur and covers areas averaging from 1.00 to 30.0 miles.

Teachers or other personnel designated as "spotters" are to watch the sky for approaching tornado action. "Spotters" should have a view of the southwest.

"Spotters," as well as the principal, should have a horn whistle, bell, or other means of signaling an approaching tornado different from other signals in the school. A referee's horn which is available for requisition from the warehouse is frequently used for this purpose. (Do not depend on bells operated by electricity.) The signal should not be sounded for a Tornado watch alert unless the spotter has identified an approaching tornado prior to receiving the tornado warning alert. However, school personnel should be informed of the Tornado watch so they will be more alert to an emergency warning and ready to move pupils to designated areas at a moment's notice.

The radio in the principal's office should be tuned to one of the local radio stations with a direct line to the Weather Service.

### Tornado Warnings

Tornado watches are NOT tornado warnings.

A tornado warning signifies a tornado has been sighted in the area or its presence has been detected by radar.

Warning signal should be given immediately and pupils moved to previously designated areas.

During adverse weather warning period, pupils should be seated on the floor with their backs to corridor walls with their hands over their heads. Coats and jackets, when available, should be used to cover

heads, arms and legs, so as to reduce injuries from flying missiles of glass and other debris. Refer to page 2 of the booklet for your school entitled "Best Available Shelter Against Tornado Forces" provided to you by Jackson-Hinds Emergency Operations Center for further information and directions.

All portable classrooms are to be evacuated.

Keep pupils away from windows or glass doors, and have them near an inside wall on the lower floor when possible.

#### Winter Storm Watches

Winter storm watches are issued to alert persons if there is a possibility of severe winter weather conditions.

#### Winter (Ice or Snow) Storm Warnings

Winter storm warnings are issued to alert persons of the specific area where considerable accumulations of ice and/or snow are anticipated.

Upon notification of the above messages, the offices of the Superintendent, the Public Information Office, and the Executive Director of Campus Enforcement are responsible for notifying the other administrative offices.

### Section III:               SELECTING SHELTER AREAS

See page 4 of booklet entitled "Best Available Shelter Against Tornado Forces" for your school.

Avoid using large enclosed areas such as auditoriums, gymnasiums, or lunchrooms.

Pupils in single story buildings should be moved into inner corridors to be protected from flying glass or other debris. They should not be directly under ceiling lights or other type objects that might fall.

Pupils in multiple story buildings should be moved into corridors of the lower floor and basement areas. Boiler rooms should not be used as shelter areas.

Most of our tornados come from the southwest and the walls of a building struck by a tornado are usually thrown outward by expanding area within the building and then blown away.

Tornado drills should be held with all occupants of the building participating two times per year. .

Section IV:           INSRTUCTIONS TO STAFF FOR TORNADO WARNINGS

If possible, turn off the gas supply to the building.

Stoves, laboratory and shop equipment should be turned off.

Pupils and school personnel should remain in the Tornado Warning Posture until the responsible administrator has determined that there is no further threat from the identified tornado.

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