

**EMERGENCY PLANS MANUAL**

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**Issued by:** Environmental Services Manager  
**Approved by:** Administrator

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**Natural Disasters/ Extreme Weather Event Plan**

1. For winter storms see Snow and Ice Storm Policy FES002
2. Environment Canada may issue severe weather watches or warnings over the internet and local radio and TV stations as noted below:

**Severe thunderstorm watch**

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Conditions are favourable for the development of severe thunderstorms with large hail, heavy rain, intense lightning or damaging winds within the areas and times specified in the watch.

**Severe thunderstorm warning**

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A severe storm has developed, producing one or more of the following conditions: heavy rain, damaging winds, hail of at least 20 mm in diameter or intense lightning. Severe thunderstorms may also produce tornadoes. The storm's expected motion and developments will be given in the warning.

**Tornado watch**

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Conditions are favourable for the development of tornadoes within the areas and times specified in the watch.

**Tornado warning**

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One or more tornadoes are occurring in the area specified. The expected motion, development and duration will be given in the warning.

**THE COLOR CODE** for Severe Weather (e.g., tornado) is PURPLE **PURPLE**

**Note: An employee becoming aware of a severe weather warning [tornado] is to immediately alert the Charge Person, who will announce code PURPLE and the weather warning over the PA system.**

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN THE EVENT OF NATURAL DISASTERS.

In the event of severe thunderstorms, hailstorms, tornadoes and earthquakes please be prepared and take the following actions:

### Severe Thunderstorm/Hailstorm Precautions –

Storms are quite frequent in our area.

Preceding or during a storm:

- -Ensure all residents are inside the building.
- Close all windows.
- Secure or put away loose objects such as outdoor furniture
- Keep residents indoors and away from windows and glass doors.
- If possible move residents to the opposite side of the building from the wind.
- Comfort the residents.



### Earthquake Precautions-

Earthquakes in our area are very rare.

During an earthquake:

- *If you're indoors* with the residents, keep them there but attempt to seek cover under interior doorways.
- Keep residents away from windows and outside doors.
- *If you're outside*, stay there. Get residents away from buildings and watch for chimneys, overhead wires, poles or other objects that might fall.
- Comfort the residents.

### Tornado Precautions-



Tornadoes in the Strathmere Lodge area are quite rare.

Peak hours for tornadoes in the Strathroy area would be from 3 pm. to 7 pm.

The funnel cloud would generally come from the south, west, or south- west.

Preceding or during a tornado:

- Ensure all residents are inside the building.
- Close all windows.
- Secure or put away loose objects such as outdoor furniture.
- Keep residents indoors and away from windows and glass doors and glass enclosed places such as the sun rooms or dining rooms.
- Move residents to interior rooms and halls close to the wall from which direction the funnel cloud is coming, as close to corners if possible.

Bathrooms, closets, interior offices, or similar rooms with short walls would be the safest areas, especially if they are on the north or east side of the building.

Central stairwells are good, but end of hallway stairwells and elevators are not.

- If the resident is in bed and there is no time to remove the resident from her room, pull the blinds and cover the resident with a blanket [head to toe] to prevent injury from breaking glass.
- If time, move residents to the lower floor –i.e. Rose Room.
- Have residents crouch down and cover their heads.
- Comfort the residents.

[Thanks to the Tornado Project and State Farm Insurance for the information]