



# Safety Matters

## Preparing for Stormy Weather



In spring and early fall, when tornados are most likely to occur in Oklahoma, be aware of your surroundings and the current environment and the different possibilities that may occur. Then make appropriate decisions based on what is happening or has the potential to happen.

### Here is a likely scenario:

1. I checked the weather forecast this morning before I left my home to drive to campus. The possibility of severe thunderstorms was mentioned.
2. It is a warm and very humid day and there is a strong southerly wind blowing.
3. There is occasional static on my radio and there are big, dark clouds in the southwest sky.

Based on your assessment of the environment and the possibility of severe weather, here are actions you can take:

1. I should take a portable radio with me today, and occasionally listen for weather information.
2. When it begins to storm, I must be aware of my immediate shelter options—basement, interior room, ditch, etc.  
**Remember—you are responsible for finding shelter in the event of a tornado.**
3. When the storm sirens begin to sound, or I hear a warning announcement on my radio, I must seek shelter immediately. (NOTE: The storm sirens are mainly designed for outdoor warning. Do not rely on hearing them when you are inside a building—especially one that is large or well-insulated.)

For added safety, several new sirens have been installed on University property; they are located at North Monroe Apartments, the Animal Science Arena, and Lake Carl Blackwell, with another planned at the Seretean Center.

We must all assess for ourselves what our risk is. In this age of increasingly instant communication, it is possible to have enough information to be aware of the presence of severe weather. More tornado safety information can be found at <http://www.ehs.okstate.edu/Weather.htm>.