



Barnwell School District 45 Extreme Weather Procedures for Transportation

The spring and fall months are most conducive to tornado activity. In addition to training for procedures to follow in the event of high winds and thunderstorms, drivers should receive instruction on what to do when a tornado watch or a tornado warning is issued.

- A **Tornado Watch** (alert) is issued when there is a better than normal chance of dangerous weather with damaging winds.
- A **Tornado Warning** will be issued should a tornado be seen in a given area. Warnings are rarely issued; however, immediate action must be taken once a warning is received.
- If a Tornado Watch or Tornado Warning is in effect at the time of school dismissal:
 - Severe weather conditions should be discussed with authorized school officials before leaving the school.
 - If a tornado warning is in effect, buses should not be loaded and students should remain in their assigned shelter areas inside the school building until the warning is lifted.
- If a Tornado Watch is issued while the bus is on a route:
 - During a tornado watch, school buses may remain in operation.
 - If a bus driver determines that conditions are such that safe driving is not possible (due to heavy rain or strong winds, for example), he/she should delay at a safe location until conditions improve.
- If a Tornado Warning is issued while the bus is on a route or if the driver spots a tornado:
 - The driver should get students off the bus to a place of safety as soon as possible.
 - The driver should instruct students to get down in a ditch or other depression in the ground or under any nearby safe structure and cover their heads with their arms.
 - The driver should maintain watch for flash flooding and move students to an alternate location should flash flooding occur.
 - The driver should ensure that students remain down with their heads covered until danger has passed.
- In the event of a tornado strike or once the Tornado Warning is lifted:
 - If the bus is on the route, the driver should check passengers for injuries and the bus for damage after tornado has passed.
 - The driver should contact the district transportation supervisor by radio or phone to report injuries, damage, or road hazards and to receive information and/or further instructions.