

Weather

Weather-related closings

During a natural disaster or severe weather, people may be prevented from entering or leaving the university for hours or days.

Notice of a decision to close the university or delay its opening will be communicated as quickly as possible by e-mail, phone trees, local radio and television stations, and postings to the university's Operating Status web page.

Call 255-3377 to hear a recorded message about closings or delayed openings of the University. Do not call Cornell Police, Facilities Customer Service or radio and television stations.

Winter ice and snow storms

When severe winter weather is predicted, monitor weather reports closely. Information is available from the University Operating Status/Inclement Weather Phone at 255-3377 and these websites;

University Operating Status: <http://www.cornell.edu/about/status/index.cfm>

University Special Conditions: <http://cuinfo.cornell.edu/SpecialConditions/>

In case of fast-developing storms (**thunderstorms, tornadoes**):

- Unplug all unnecessary equipment and appliances, including sensitive electronic instruments and computers.
- Store all equipment in safe areas away from windows. Keep curtains/blinds closed.

If a tornado alert is given or you see a funnel cloud:

- Seek shelter in a substantial building immediately.
- If there is no shelter nearby, lie flat in a ditch or low spot with your hands shielding your head.

If you are in a building:

- Go to the basement or an interior room on the lowest floor. Stay away from windows. Closets, bathrooms and other interior rooms offer the best protection.

- Get under something sturdy or cover yourself with a mattress, if possible.
- Do not use elevators.

If a thunderstorm approaches:

- Go to safe shelter immediately. Remember that if you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck by lightning. Use phones only in an emergency. Do not take a bath or shower.

If there is no shelter nearby:

- Squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet if you feel your skin tingle or your hair stand on end.
- Place your hands on your knees with your head between them. Make yourself the smallest target possible. Minimize your contact with the ground.
- Find a low spot away from trees, fences and poles. Make sure the place you pick is not subject to flooding.
- If you are in the woods, take shelter under the shortest trees.