

Harper College Campus Tornado Drill Procedures

The College conducts regular tornado drills. Drills simulate communication and safety procedures in the event of a tornado on/near campus. Drills last approximately 10 minutes.

How Drills Work

At the start of a drill you will hear this message:

“THIS IS A DRILL, THIS IS ONLY A DRILL. This is the Harper College Police Department. The National Weather Service has issued a tornado warning for the area. A tornado warning means that a tornado has been sighted on the ground and you should take immediate action to take cover. THIS IS A DRILL, THIS IS ONLY A DRILL.”

If you are in a classroom or office during a drill, we recommend you practice sheltering:

Determine an appropriate tornado shelter location prior to an emergency. There are some designated shelter areas posted throughout campus with yellow “Tornado Shelter” signs. Generally, these areas are first floor interior hallways (without windows) and rest rooms, however classrooms and offices on the first floor that do not have windows are also good shelter areas. Designated shelter areas are posted on Emergency Maps in buildings throughout the campus. You may also view maps for each building with the designated areas to move to during a tornado warning. [See Map PDF.](#)

- Below ground level is the best shelter, however only Buildings A and Z have limited available shelter space.
- Avoid traveling past or taking shelter in spaces with windows.
- Avoid windows, doors and outside walls.
- Go to the center of the room.
- Avoid areas with wide-span roofs, such as auditoriums and Building M Health and Wellness Center
- If you are outside, you should immediately seek shelter inside the nearest building. Do not travel outside to get to another building.
- Persons with mobility disabilities should move to an area on the floor.
- Stay in the shelter area until the ALL CLEAR has been given.

About three minutes after the initial announcement, you will hear a message announcing the end of the drill:

“This is the Harper College Police Department. This concludes the tornado drill. Had this been an actual emergency, you would have been given further instructions on what actions to take. This concludes the tornado drill.”

This message will repeat several times.

If you have additional questions or concerns about the tornado drill, please contact Harper Police Chief Claude Casaletto, 847.925.6647.