

Communication During Weather Hazards

During hazardous weather situations, it is important that your school's administration is in constant communication with other officials, such as the police, other schools, school district administration, and emergency management about the changing weather conditions. While using phone numbers and contact information for these officials is great, not every mean of communication is appropriate for every situation. Remember, not every hazardous weather situation is of the same nature as a tornado warning. Some types of hazardous weather situations just require the rerouting of buses or a cancelation of outdoor activities.

In the situations below, if you were a school principal in the following situations, describe who you would contact, when would you contact them, why you would contact them, and how you would contact them. You can contact multiple personnel. Consider to following the questions when answering:

- How significant is the hazardous weather? Do we need to activate our shelter?
- What do you (the Principal) want to do to control the situation?
- When will the weather hazard end/dissipate?
- Who does our response to the hazard matter to?

Situation #1:

Around mid-day the National Weather Service issues a heat advisory for the next day, as heat indices are expected to go over 105°F. That same day, at noon, you know the sixth grade classes are doing nature walk in the forest next to the school as part of their plant unit.

WHO do you contact?

WHEN do you contact them?

WHY do you contact them?

HOW do you contact them?



Situation #2:

It is 2:45pm and school gets out at 3:00pm. Outside, it is raining, there are strong winds, and you see a flash of lightning. You look at radar and see a fast moving system passing through the area. Based on the radar, you presume that it should be over a little after 3:00pm.

WHO do you contact?

WHEN do you contact them?

WHY do you contact them?

HOW do you contact them?

Situation #3:

It is a stormy day. You get a notice from the NOAA Weather Radio that your county is under a Severe Thunderstorm Watch. Five minutes later, you receive an e-mail from your school's weather watcher, who sends out weather updates to the building, confirming the watch and that a warning was issued for a neighboring county and that hail and a funnel cloud were reported with this system. The school district is very rural and you are the only building threatened by the system.

WHO do you contact?

WHEN do you contact them?

WHY do you contact them?

HOW do you contact them?



Situation #4:

Your building is in a location prone to fog in the late morning. One of your classes has a field trip leaving in 20 minutes and the fog is very dense. The fog developed as school was beginning. Reports are that the fog should dissipate in about 30-45 minutes.

WHO do you contact?

WHEN do you contact them?

WHY do you contact them?

HOW do you contact them?

