

Manual:	Emergency Preparedness	Reference No.:	<b>008150.00</b>
Section:	Code Orange – Disaster Contingency Plans / Extreme Weather		
Subject:	<b>Tornado (Watch &amp; Warning)</b>		

**POLICY:**

It is the policy of APANS Health Services that there will be an emergency plan in place providing direction to staff in the event of a Tornado Watch or Warning.

**Tornado Watch** is designated by the Department of the Environment when a combination of weather conditions which may include Thunder Storms exist that are conducive to the creation of a tornado.

**Tornado Warning** as issued by the Department of the Environment means that conditions are favorable for tornado activity and funnel clouds have been observed or have touched down in the area.

**Resources for Weather Notification:**

1. Weather Radio- located at Command Centre.
2. Website: environment.gc.ca
3. [www.ontario.ca/emc](http://www.ontario.ca/emc) -You can sign up for emergency alerts for actual or potential emergencies. Alerts will be delivered by: E-mail, SMS message, RSS feed, Twitter.

**PROCEDURE:**

**Tornado Watch**

1. Weather radio is located in each Home at the Command Centre and is to be tuned to weather station. Radio should have capability of battery operation in the event the electricity goes off. Batteries are to be changed annually at beginning of the year.
2. Charge Nurse of Command Centre to notify other Nurses etc. in building of Tornado Watch by the homes paging system. "Code Orange- Tornado Watch". Charge Nurses to keep in close contact via this method of communication. Communicate situation to members of your team and other workers in the Home.
3. Locate all residents and ask them to come indoors if anyone is outside.
4. Check outdoors and indoors for any objects with might become missiles if blown about in a high wind, and put in a safe place.
5. Ensure that equipment, emergency bags, flash lights, batteries blankets etc. are readily available.
6. Remove any unnecessary equipment, furniture, boxes, etc. from traffic areas. Clear hallways in the event of a Tornado Warning.

Manual:	Emergency Preparedness	Reference No.:	<b>008150.00</b>
Section:	Code Orange – Disaster Contingency Plans / Extreme Weather		
Subject:	<b>Tornado (Watch &amp; Warning)</b>		

7. Begin to close curtains to prevent against flying glass.
8. If you feel a serious storm is near, take the ambulatory residents and settle them in chairs. They will no doubt feel safer here and will be glad to be together. **DO NOT ALARM THE RESIDENTS.**
9. Residents who are bedfast can be moved away from the windows.
10. Have plenty of blankets ready. If a severe storm strikes, the residents can be quickly covered with these to avoid injury by flying glass or splinters.

### **Tornado Warning**

Charge Nurse of command center to notify staff and residents immediately using overhead page and/or walkie talkie.  
State: *Tornado Warning in effect x 3*

Residents should be moved into the hallway. Position with backs against the inside wall and do not sit in front of doorways/windows. If necessary a resident can be moved into the hallway in their bed. Ambulatory residents who are able can sit on the floor.

Staff should then ensure curtains are closed and equipment is secure and away from resident area.

If time allows provide each resident with a blanket for warmth and head and body protection.

The computerized phone notification system may be activated after the storm by the Charge Nurse at their discretion, if the situation including the immediacy or severeness of the storm, would warrant.

Evacuation procedure activation would also be an option if the local fire/police departments would deem this necessary.

Inform key APANS Health Services personnel including the CEO.

Follow up required such as notification of Ministry of Health, etc. will be the decision of the Executive Director or alternate in Charge of the Home in the absence of the Executive Director.