
ERPS as “Community” Shelters

EI Reno Public Schools’ shelters are designed to protect students and staff.

During school hours, the shelters will be at capacity to shelter all students and staff, so they will NOT be available to the public.

Traveling to a shelter in a vehicle is discouraged during a tornado warning. If you find that you have no other safe option, EI Reno Public Schools will have resources/personnel in place to open the following shelter sites after school hours:

- 1) **Old Central Grounds, 600 Block of S. Bickford across from Lucus Hall**
- 2) **Hillcrest Elementary, 1302 S. Miles (Shelter is in the south playground area)**
- 3) **Lincoln Learning Center, 425 Mercy Drive (Shelter is located on the southwest corner)**
- 4) **Roblyer Learning Center, 427 SW 27th (Shelter is located behind the southwest corner)**

Note: Due to capacity restrictions, these shelters will be first-come, first-served.

Based on policy advice of an attorney, EI Reno Public Schools will NOT allow pets in the shelters.

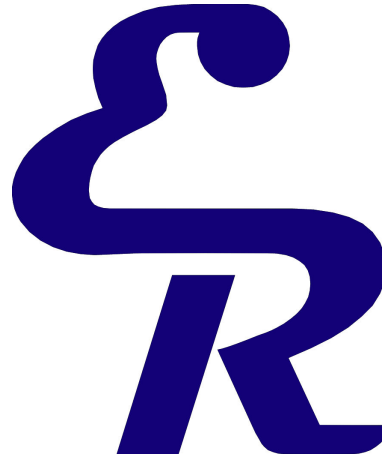
For More Information

FEMA

FEMA has created a website dedicated solely to helping you plan for emergency situations. Visit www.ready.gov/tornadoes to get a wealth of resources that will help you prepare a safety plan for your family.

American Red Cross

The American Red Cross has created an emergency preparedness page specifically for tornadoes. This site will help you prepare your family’s plan, and provides information on what to do during and after the storm. Visit the site at www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster/tornado.



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Craig McVay, Superintendent of Schools

Prepare & Stay Aware

Information to help you construct a safety plan, stay weather aware, and take the proper precautions to shelter your family during a storm.



Tornado Safety

It is critical for you to think about tornado safety long before a storm appears and put together a detailed plan for what you will do to stay safe no matter where you may be when storms threaten.

Keeping informed about the weather is the best way to avoid being caught in a tornado or severe thunderstorm. Local news provides information about dangerous weather in your area, and you should keep a close eye on this information whenever storms are likely to occur. A battery-operated weather radio with a warning alarm feature should be a part of your information system.

When a severe storm or tornado threatens, remember these basic guidelines:

- **GET IN** - get as far inside a strong building as you can, away from doors and windows
- **GET DOWN** - get to the lowest floor
- **COVER UP** - use whatever you can to protect yourself from flying or falling debris

Know the Difference

Tornado Watch - Tornadoes are possible in and near the watch area. Review and discuss your emergency plans, and check supplies and your safe room. Be ready to act quickly if a warning is issued or you suspect a tornado is approaching. Acting early helps to save lives!

Tornado Warning - A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Tornado warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property. Go immediately under ground to a basement, storm cellar or an interior room (closet, hallway or bathroom).

Have a plan in place for your family in the event of a tornado.

- People face far less risk by sheltering in place. A typical tornado warning only gives you 10-15 minutes to take the necessary precautions, which is not enough time to gather all family members and essential items and drive to a community shelter (including possible traffic jams).
- An underground storm shelter/cellar, enclosed basement or safe room is preferred.
- If you cannot get under ground, get as far inside the structure as you can, staying away from doors, windows, and other openings. Put as many walls between you and outside as possible; the center of the house is where you should try to be for safety.
- Get as low as you can on the lowest floor.
- Cover up for protection: use pillows, blankets, sleeping bags, mattresses. Wear a helmet or hardhat to protect your head from debris.
- Being outdoors, in a mobile home, or in a vehicle are all unsafe locations when a tornado is present. Do NOT try to outrun a tornado in your car.



Don't Hesitate!

If the siren is activated, you have waited too long! If your home is not safe (e.g. mobile home), you need to shelter in a better location. It is essential that you plan in advance and do not delay in leaving your home for a safer location.



Disaster Kit

FEMA recommends you have several items in your kit:

- 3-day supply of water (1 gallon/person/day)
- Battery powered weather radio
- Non-perishable food
- Flashlight, extra batteries
- Change of clothing, footwear
- First aid kit, prescription medications
- Cash/Credit card
- Special items/food needed by infants