

# Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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| Transportation Procedure 040<br>Tornado Sightings/Warnings | Effective: 9/1/2015 |
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## **Tornado Sightings/Warnings**

In the event a tornado warning is issued after the route starts, the Driver shall:

1. Continue to listen to the two-way radio for updates.
2. Make a judgment based on information available and observable weather conditions as to whether the bus/van should be evacuated.
3. If the bus/van is at a Board site, the Driver shall follow the directions of the Site Manager, Team Leader, or Principal. Supported Employment van drivers who are at work sites shall contact their immediate supervisor and inform them of concerns and or the need for delaying departure due to severe weather.
4. Delaying bus departures and diverting buses on routes are strategies that may be used to insure health and safety.

## **Tornado Disaster Plan**

1. Transporting students/individuals in rural areas:
  - a. Try to pull the bus/van off the roadway away from large trees, electrical lines, telephone poles, or buildings.
  - b. Evacuate bus/van. Make sure to take along first aid kit.
  - c. Move away from the side of the bus or van without crossing the road. Be far enough away from the bus/van to avoid the risk of it toppling onto you or your passengers.
  - d. Try to find a ditch, ravine, or embankment and use it for protection. Be aware of high or swift water.
  - e. When danger is over, check everyone for injury or shock, and administer first aid if needed.
  - f. Contact the transportation office for further instructions.
2. Transporting students/individuals in urban areas:
  - a. Park bus/van immediately.
  - b. Evacuate bus/van and take first aid kit.
  - c. Send all passengers to nearest homes or buildings, going into a room with no windows and assume the tornado position near an interior wall.
  - d. When danger is over, check for shock and injury; administer first aid if needed.
  - e. Contact the Transportation office for further instructions.
3. Bus in transit [no students/individuals]
  - a. Park bus/van and seek shelter.
  - b. When danger is over, contact Transportation Office, for further instructions.
4. During a tornado DO NOT:
  - a. ...hesitate to take cover in ditches or places below ground level.
  - b. ...stay in the school bus if caught in a tornado or high winds.
  - c. ...seek protection under an overpass or bridge.
  - d. ...attempt to outrun tornadoes or other severe weather.