

AccuWeather SkyGuard Quick Reference Sheet

This is basic information regarding AccuWeather SkyGuard and how it is used at the University of Kansas Medical Center.

Topic	AccuWeather SkyGuard and its importance on Campus
What?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SkyGuard is a weather service utilized by The Medical Center Campus that provides proactive notifications about weather threatening the Medical Center, including the Clinical Research Center. SkyGuard is staffed by the largest team of meteorologists outside the National Weather Service (NWS) who monitor our sites 24/7 - 365 days/year.
Why?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patient, Staff, Faculty, and Student Staff safety is our TOP priority, SkyGuard helps us give the most accurate warning to YOU! SkyGuard looks specifically at our campus and offers warnings when a tornado is within a 3 mile radius of campus, usually allowing for a 20-minute lead time. - This means that if you leave for your shelter as soon as you get the warning, you should be sheltered well ahead of time! When the National Weather Service NWS issues a tornado warning by county, This is great for the county, but 72%* of the time, the tornado will not affect campus, either due to location within the county or direction winds are heading. In this case, SkyGuard issues a <i>NULL tornado warning**</i>, meaning that the 3-mile radius surrounding our campus is safe, but to let us know that the NWS has issued a warning for the County. - That means that 72% of the time we could be moving patients and staff unnecessarily, as the tornado is not on route for KUMC. This puts our patients at unnecessary risk and causes staff and students to lose productivity due to sheltering unnecessarily.
How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our Police Dispatch is notified by SkyGuard when a tornado is within a 3-mile radius of campus, usually allowing a 20 minute lead time. Dispatch sends out Alertus warnings – this will come across the beacons and pop up on your desktop. Dispatch will send out Rave warnings, if you are opted in, you will receive these warnings via text message. A critical information email will be sent out by Dispatch.
Then what?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As soon as you receive any of the above communications – take shelter! Do not use elevators during a tornado warning unless you KNOW your building is equipped with back-up generators, and then elevators are only to be used to move the non-ambulatory in emergent situations Please review additional tornado response procedures online http://www.kumc.edu/emergency-management/emergency-procedures/inclement-weather/tornado.html
Where can I find related resources?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> http://link.brightcove.com/services/player/bcpid2755210001?bclid=2741161001&bctid=2485983001 http://www.kumc.edu/emergency-management.html http://www.weatherdata.com/
Questions?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact: University Emergency Management, uem@kumc.edu

*According to AccuWeather, parent company of WeatherData's SkyGuard Service, 72% of the National Weather Service Tornado Warnings issued for a county do not affect the 3-mile radius of clients. In addition, SkyGuard has issued tornado warnings for clients when the NWS does not issue a tornado warning.

**SkyGuard issues NULL tornado warnings when the NWS has issued a tornado warning for a client's county but the client's 3-mile radius is not affected.