

Severe Weather

Severe weather can impact The Master's University with little warning and may create hazardous conditions affecting campus operations and personal safety. While Southern California rarely experiences tornadoes, hurricanes, or significant snowfall, our region is more frequently impacted by extreme heat, heavy rain, flash flooding, high winds, and severe thunderstorms. Understanding how to prepare for and respond to these events is essential to maintaining personal safety and campus resilience.

The Master's University Emergency Management Department, in coordination with Campus Safety and local emergency response agencies, continuously monitors weather conditions and is prepared to implement protective actions when severe weather threatens the campus community.

General Severe Weather Safety

During any severe weather event:

- Monitor official university communications and Mustang Alert notifications.
- Follow instructions from Campus Safety, university officials, and emergency responders.
- Avoid unnecessary travel during hazardous conditions.
- Keep your cell phone charged and readily available.
- Be prepared to shelter or evacuate if instructed.

Heavy Rain and Flash Flooding

Heavy rainfall can quickly create dangerous conditions, including flash flooding, roadway flooding, mudslides, and debris flows.

During Heavy Rain or Flooding:

- Avoid walking or driving through flooded areas.
- Never attempt to cross moving water.
- Stay away from drainage channels, creeks, culverts, and low-lying areas.
- Move to higher ground if flooding threatens your location.

- Follow road closures and evacuation orders.
- Report flooding hazards to Campus Safety.

If Driving:

- Reduce your speed.
- Increase following distance.
- Turn on headlights.
- Never drive around barricades or through standing water.

High Winds

Strong winds can cause falling trees, flying debris, power outages, and structural damage.

During High Wind Events:

- Seek shelter inside a building.
- Stay away from windows and glass doors.
- Avoid outdoor activities.
- Stay clear of trees, power lines, and construction areas.
- Secure loose outdoor items if it is safe to do so.
- Report downed power lines or hazardous conditions immediately.

Extreme Heat

Extreme heat can result in heat exhaustion, heat stroke, dehydration, and other serious medical emergencies.

During Extreme Heat:

- Limit strenuous outdoor activities.
- Drink plenty of water, even if you do not feel thirsty.
- Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing.
- Take frequent breaks in air-conditioned or shaded areas.
- Check on others, especially those who may be vulnerable to heat-related illness.
- Never leave people or pets inside parked vehicles.

Signs of Heat-Related Illness

Heat Exhaustion:

- Heavy sweating
- Dizziness
- Weakness
- Nausea
- Headache

Heat Stroke (Medical Emergency):

- Confusion
- Loss of consciousness
- High body temperature
- Hot, dry skin or excessive sweating

If someone is experiencing symptoms of heat stroke:

- Call 911 immediately.
- Contact TMU Campus Safety at (661) 713-7561.
- Move the person to a cool location and begin cooling measures if safe to do so.

Thunderstorms and Lightning

Although infrequent in Southern California, thunderstorms and lightning can occur and present serious hazards.

During Thunderstorms:

- Move indoors immediately.
- Stay away from windows and exterior doors.
- Avoid using corded electronics and plumbing fixtures.
- Remain indoors for at least 30 minutes after the last sound of thunder.

Snow, Ice, and Winter Weather

While uncommon in our region, winter storms can create hazardous travel conditions.

During Winter Weather:

- Limit travel when roads are icy or snow-covered.
- Dress warmly and in layers.
- Watch for slippery sidewalks and stairs.
- Follow university communications regarding campus operations.

Tornadoes and Hurricanes

Tornadoes and hurricanes are extremely rare in Southern California; however, severe wind events associated with tropical systems or rotating thunderstorms may occur.

If a Tornado Warning Is Issued:

- Move immediately to the lowest level of a building.
- Stay away from windows and exterior walls.
- Take shelter in an interior room or hallway.
- Cover your head and neck.

If Tropical Storm Conditions Affect the Region:

- Follow instructions from emergency officials and university administration.
- Avoid unnecessary travel.
- Prepare for heavy rain, flooding, and power outages.

Contact Emergency Responders

When it is safe to do so:

- Call 911 for life-threatening emergencies.
- Contact TMU Campus Safety at (661) 713-7561.
- Report hazardous weather conditions, injuries, flooding, or other emergencies.

After the Event

- Continue monitoring official university communications.
- Avoid damaged areas and downed power lines.
- Report hazards to Campus Safety.
- Seek medical attention if needed.

- Return to normal activities only when conditions are safe.

Remember: Severe weather hazards vary, but preparation, awareness, and timely action are the keys to protecting yourself and others.

