

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

**HOSPITAL TORNADO ALERT
EMERGENCY PLAN**

Purpose: To protect our patient and visitor population should a tornado strike the facility.

- Policy:
- I. This plan will be put into effect when either a tornado is sighted from the facility or a report is received of one within the immediate vicinity of the facility. The following announcement will be made on the overhead paging system: "Code Gray, we are in a tornado alert situation. All ambulatory patients please move to the corridors."
 - II. During normal working hours, Hospital Administration shall be responsible for initiating the alert. On holidays, weekends, or nights, the administrative house manager will be responsible for initiating the alert.
 - III. After alert is announced, Nursing Service personnel will supervise the movement of patients to corridors.
 - A. Place blankets, linens, mattresses on the floor to lie on.
 - B. Move patient care equipment needed to care for patients to the corridor.
 - C. Maintain appropriate space in corridor for personnel to move safely among patients.
 - D. Close all doors.
 - E. Personnel shall assist patients in lying flat or sitting down with head covered with blanket.
 - IV. All patient rooms in which non-ambulatory patients are located shall be secured, if possible, by pulling drapes and/or lowering window shades to protect patients from flying glass. Patients shall be moved, when possible, across the room as far as possible from the windows.
 - V. In non-patient care areas, people in rooms with outside windows should move to the corridor or a windowless area when the alert announcement is made. In lobby area, University Police will direct people to move away from the glass doors and windows.
 - VI. The alert will be canceled via the overhead paging system: "Code Gray, tornado alert condition is canceled."