

Thunderstorm Watch Policy

In the event that a Severe Thunderstorm Watch is issued during library operational hours, the staff will follow the procedure below:

1. The staff at the Homer Public Library will announce when a Severe Thunderstorm Watch has been issued for our area.
2. Staff will suggest that patrons keep an eye on the weather, as conditions can change rapidly.
3. Children will be allowed access to the phone if they need to contact a parent or a caregiver.

Thunderstorm Warning Policy

In the event that a Severe Thunderstorm Warning is issued during library operational hours the staff will follow the procedures below:

1. The staff at the Homer Public Library will announce when a Thunderstorm Warning has been issued for our area.
2. We will then suggest that children who are walking or riding their bikes make their way home as soon as possible. Children will be welcome and encouraged to stay in the library during a storm.
3. Children 14 and over will be allowed to leave if they choose but children 14 and under who are unattended will not be allowed to leave until the weather danger passes.
4. *Children will be allowed access to the phone if they need to contact a parent or a caregiver.*

Tornado Watch Policy

In the event that a Tornado Watch is issued during library operational hours, the staff will follow the procedure below:

5. The staff at the Homer Public Library will announce when a Tornado Watch has been issued for our area.
6. Staff will suggest that patrons keep an eye on the weather, as conditions can change rapidly.
7. Children will be allowed access to the phone if they need to contact a parent or a caregiver.

Tornado Warning Policy

In the event that a Tornado Warning is issued by weather radio or the tornado sirens in town go off during library operational hours the staff will follow the procedures below:

1. An announcement will be made that a tornado warning has been issued for our area.
2. **All computers will be shut down.**
3. Patrons will be instructed to make their way into one of the two bathrooms. (If the bathrooms fill up, patrons will also be advised to enter the staff bathroom, the workroom or the director's office.)
4. Staff will lock the cash box, if it is safe to do so, and then they will go into the bathrooms taking with them the emergency kit containing the weather radio in the director's office and flashlight located in the staff bathroom.
5. All patrons will be encouraged to take shelter but we will not prevent any adults or any child over the age of 14 from leaving the building.
6. Children who are 14 and under who are in the library, unattended, may not leave the library until the tornado warning expires or the all clear is given.
7. Doors will remain unlocked, in case anyone in the area needs to seek shelter during the storm.