

Bethany Life Communities	Effective Date: 5-14-2007	Date Revised: 7-30-08
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### ***Policy Statement***

Bethany Life Communities strives to maintain a safe environment for residents/tenants, team members, volunteers, families, and visitors.

### ***Policy Interpretation and Implementation***

- ✓ Weather conditions are constantly monitored by all nursing stations.
- ✓ Second floor nurses are the primary “storm watchers” and communicators to other team members by overhead intercom.
- ✓ ***Be prepared to act quickly.***
- ✓ All team members are to be aware of severe weather conditions or the potential for severe weather as they develop.
- ✓ If conditions are severe or have the potential for becoming severe, the second floor nurses shall monitor various media for current information (NOAA Weather Radio, television, radio, and internet).

### **Terms used in weather bulletins:**

- ***Severe Thunderstorm watch*** - a severe thunderstorm is possible in the area.
- ***Severe Thunderstorm warning*** – a severe thunderstorm is actually occurring or about to occur in the area.
- ***Tornado watch*** – a tornado is possible in the area.
- ***Tornado warning*** – a tornado is actually occurring in the area.  
***Take shelter immediately.***

### **Procedures after bulletin is received:**

- ✓ ***If a severe thunderstorm watch/warning OR tornado watch/warning is issued for the Story County and includes the Story City area, the second floor nurse is to announce what kind of storm bulletin has been issued.***
  - ***Press EXT PAGE and 00 to engage the overhead paging system.***
  - ***Say – “A watch/warning has been issued for Story City.”*** (In the event of a tornado warning: ***“Team members, please assist residents to their hallway or safe room.”***)
- ✓ After announcement of a watch or warning, close curtains to limit potential flying glass from high winds, locate emergency equipment storage box, and adequate supply of blankets.

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- ✓ As per guidance from the National Weather Service (brochure citation NOAA/PA99050 ARC1122), showers/baths are not be given during any electrical storm activity.
- ✓ After the announcement of a tornado warning, team members are to assist residents and visitors to safe areas. Each part of the building has specific safe areas:
  - ***North Wing & '67*** – residents are to go into their bathrooms and close the doors.
  - ***East Wing & '77*** – residents are to be in the hallways, close all doors to resident rooms. In East Wing, close the fire doors between the hallway and dayroom.
  - ***All Common areas*** – close all fire doors.
  - ***Visitors*** – are to go into public restrooms ***OR*** remain with their resident if they can render assistance.
  - ***Other safe areas*** – Linen, shower, and utility rooms.
- ✓ ***If a resident is bed-bound or cannot be moved quickly enough, place blanket(s) over the resident and move the bed as far from windows as possible.***

**After the storm has passed:**

- ✓ The second floor nurse is to announce the “all clear” by overhead paging system.
- ✓ Team members are to make certain residents are safe and have suffered no injuries from the storm.
- ✓ Seek medical attention for any resident or team member who was injured immediately.
- ✓ Team members are to assist residents from safe areas back to their rooms.
- ✓ Emergency equipment is to be returned to the emergency equipment storage box.