

University of North Texas

Emergency

Response

Handbook

Provided by:

UNT Emergency Management & Safety Services

In collaboration with:

UNT Police Department, UNT Facilities, UNT Student Health & Wellness Center

CONTENTS

Emergency Preparedness Resources	3
Active Threat	7
Acts or Threats of Violence	9
Bomb Threat	10
Biohazardous Waste Clean Up	13
Car Accident.....	15
Civil Disturbance or Demonstration	17
Crime Prevention.....	18
Disruptive or Hostile Persons	20
Elevator Failure	21
Evacuation.....	22
Extreme Temperatures	24
Fire.....	28
Gas Leak	30
Hazardous Materials Handling and Spill Response	31
Hostage Situation	33
Medical Emergencies	34
Power Outage	36
Secure-in-Place	37
Severe Weather.....	38
Shelter-in-Place	42
Suspicious Package or Unattended Item	43
Water Leak or Plumbing Failure	45
Winter Weather.....	46

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES

MAKE AN EMERGENCY PLAN

One of the most important things you can do to be prepared for an emergency is to create an emergency plan for yourself and your loved ones. Making a plan ensures you know how you will communicate with friends and family during a disaster and gives you an opportunity to think through where you would go or what you would do in the event of an emergency. There are countless tools available to help you create one.

MY UNT EMERGENCY PLAN

The [My UNT Emergency Plan](#) is a template emergency plan created for UNT students. The plan, available as a fillable and/or printable PDF online, provides a place for individuals to record their personal information and critical information for each building they have a class in, such as:

- The locations of the nearest Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)
- The locations of the nearest shelter areas
- The buildings' evacuation assembly areas

This information can be located on the [Emergency Management & Safety Services website](#) (emergency.unt.edu/emergency-floor-plans) or on the Mean Green Ready app! The [Mean Green Ready app](#) (<https://bit.ly/mgrapp>) is a mobile application developed and maintained by Emergency Management & Safety Services and is available for free on the [App Store](#) and [Google Play Store](#).

Download the plan, fill it out, and print it off to keep with you; make a second copy to share with a loved one. You may also print a blank version that can be filled out by-hand. It will serve as an excellent quick reference for when the unthinkable arises.

KNOWHAT2DO

The *KnowWhat2Do* program is an educational program that works to educate North Central Texas residents on what to do to prepare their homes and communities for all hazards. This website is full of information and resources to help you be prepared for disaster! One of the tools on this site is the "Make a Plan" resource, which guides you through the process of creating your own emergency plan. At the end of the process, you will be provided with a completed emergency plan that you can either print or have emailed to yourself. Learn more: www.knowwhat2do.com.

READY.GOV

Ready is a national public service campaign designed to educate and empower the American people to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate emergencies, including natural and man-made disasters. The goal of the campaign is to promote preparedness through public involvement. Ready.gov has a page dedicated to providing resources for you to create your own emergency plan. Find more information here:

<https://www.ready.gov/plan>.

ATTEND TRAINING

UNT **Emergency Management & Safety Services** and the **UNT Police** offer a wide range of trainings to the UNT community. Some of the trainings available include, but are not limited to:

- **Emergency Readiness Training** – a general course that includes tips on what to do in a variety of emergency situations
- **Stop the Bleed Training** – this course prepares you help stop the bleeding trauma of a victim before first responders arrive
- **Until Help Arrives Training** – this course teaches you the steps needed to keep someone who has experienced a traumatic injury alive until first responders arrive
- **Hands-Only CPR and AED Use Training** – this course provides basic knowledge about how to perform hands-only CPR and utilize AEDs that are available across the UNT campus
- **Fire Extinguisher Training** – this course will allow you the opportunity for hands-on experience with a fire extinguisher simulation
- Specialized training or department/unit-specific training

Check out these websites to learn more: [Emergency Management & Safety Services training page](https://emergency.unt.edu/personal-preparedness#Train) (<https://emergency.unt.edu/personal-preparedness#Train>) and [UNT Police training page](https://police.unt.edu/safety) (police.unt.edu/safety).

SIGN UP FOR EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

One of the most important ways to be prepared for an emergency is to have multiple means of receiving emergency information. We recommend that all UNT students, faculty, and staff have at least three (3) means of receiving emergency information.

EAGLE ALERT

Eagle Alert is UNT's official, campus-wide emergency notification system for emergency events, inclement winter weather closures, or tornado warnings. *Eagle Alert* allows UNT administrators to quickly contact campus community members by phone, text, and email. Eagle Alert will also post to the [Eagle Alert Twitter](https://twitter.com/unteaglealert) (twitter.com/unteaglealert).

In addition to receiving direct messages by phone and email, the system includes a feature called desktop override that takes control over most UNT-owned computers in offices, classrooms, and public spaces on campus. During the test or in the event of an emergency, computer screens, presentation screens, and digital signs will display a full-screen alert.

UNT faculty, staff, and students are automatically enrolled in *Eagle Alert*. Individuals should remember, however, that if their personal contact information changes, they should go to my.unt.edu (students/faculty) or my.untsystem.edu (staff) to update their information. Instructions for updating your information can be found here (<https://www.unt.edu/eaglealert>).

CODERED

The City of Denton uses the *CodeRED* system, a high-speed telephone communications service, for emergency notifications. The system telephones all or targeted areas of Denton in the case of an emergency situation that requires immediate action. Individuals can also opt-in to receive weather warnings issued by the National Weather Service, including severe thunderstorm warnings and flash flood warnings. Please note that UNT **Emergency Management & Safety Services** only sends alerts to the UNT community for inclement weather closures and tornado warnings in the immediate vicinity of the campus.

Sign up for the [City of Denton CodeRED here](#). Visit [this website to sign up for CodeRED alerts](#) for Frisco, Texas.

OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS

The City of Denton has numerous outdoor warning sirens (with five on the UNT campus). The sirens are used to alert the public of impending emergencies, including severe weather. The sirens are tested on the first Wednesday of each month at noon, with each test lasting approximately three (3) minutes. In the event of inclement weather, siren tests will be postponed until the second Wednesday of the month.

When you hear the outdoor warning sirens, go indoors and to the nearest shelter location; turn your radio to [KNTU 88.1 FM](#) or watch a local television channel for severe weather information.

[View a map of siren locations in the City of Denton.](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA

Below are just a few social media accounts you can follow to help be prepared for emergencies on and off campus!

- Follow UNT Emergency Management & Safety Services (@MeanGreenReady) on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#) for information about the weather on campus and other important safety tips.
- Follow UNT Police (@UNTPolice) on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) for important personal safety information and other campus-relevant safety information.
- Follow UNT Facilities on [Twitter](#) (@UNTFacilities) and [Facebook](#) (@UNTFacilitiesDept) for updates related to construction on campus, traffic detours, and more.
- Follow UNT Transportation Services (@UNTTransit) on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) for traffic, transportation, and parking updates.
- Follow Denton Police Department on [Twitter](#) (@DENTONPD) and [Facebook](#) (@CityofDentonPoliceDepartment) for information about local incidents, personal safety, and traffic alerts within the City of Denton.
- Follow the City of Denton on [Twitter](#) (@cityofdentontx) and [Facebook](#) (@CityofDenton) for the latest Denton news and events within the city.
- Follow the National Weather Service Ft. Worth - Dallas on [Twitter](#) (@NWSFortWorth) and [Facebook](#) (NWSDallasFortWorth) for the most up-to-date information about the weather in the North Texas region.

DOWNLOAD OTHER RESOURCES

MEAN GREEN READY APP

Emergency Management & Safety Services maintains an app called the Mean Green Ready app. This app contains a wealth of useful information, such as emergency floor plans for every campus building, the location of AEDs on campus, and much more. The app is available for free on the App Store and Google Play, just search “UNT Emergency” to get started.



THE RED CROSS FIRST AID APP



The American Red Cross has developed a free and easy-to-use first aid reference guide, available for download from the Google Play Store and the App Store. Learn more on the Red Cross Mobile Apps page ([redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/mobile-apps.html](https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/mobile-apps.html)).

ACTIVE THREAT

Though the likelihood of an individual experiencing an active threat situation is low, the UNT community is not immune to this type of event. Because active threat situations are unpredictable and evolve rapidly—generally faster than law enforcement can arrive at the scene—individuals must be prepared to respond.

PREPARE

- Sign up for an active shooter training with the **UNT Police**
- Identify multiple evacuation plans (including at least two different exits)
- Have an idea of where you would hide from an active threat
- Determine what techniques and items you can use to take out a threat

When faced with an active threat, be prepared to **Run, Hide, or Fight!** Though presented in this order, **Run, Hide, Fight** is NOT a sequential process. Depending on the characteristics of the threat, some or all of these actions may be taken and, when taken, may be done in a different order than presented.

RUN

Attempt to evacuate the premises if there is an accessible escape route.

- Evacuate even if others will NOT follow
- Leave your belongings behind
- Help others escape, if possible
- Keep your hands visible when exiting the scene so that first responders know that you are not the person creating the active threat
- Follow all instructions from police officers once they arrive
- Call **911** when you are safe and describe the shooter, location, and weapons
- Prevent individuals from entering an area where the active shooter may be

HIDE

If escape is not possible, find a place to hide where the active shooter is less likely to find you. Your hiding place should be out of the active threat's view, provide protection if shots are fired in your direction, not trap you or restrict your movement. To prevent an active shooter from entering your hiding place:

- Lock the door
- Blockade the door with heavy furniture
- Silence your cell phone (including the vibrate function) and any other sources of noise - remain quiet
- Hide behind large items (e.g. cabinets, desks, etc.)

- Try to communicate with the police silently – on the UNT campus and in Denton you can text 911 if you are able

FIGHT

Attempt to disrupt and/or incapacitate the active threat by:

- Acting as aggressively as possible against the threat
- Throwing items and improvising weapons
- Yelling
- Committing to your actions – in dangerous situations if you must fight, remain assertive and aggressive

WHEN LAW ENFORCEMENT ARRIVES

Keep hands empty and clearly visible with fingers spread. Remain calm and follow officers' directions. Keep in mind the officers will be fighting through adrenaline and tunnel vision to stay focused, so they may yell and/or direct you to get down on the ground. Avoid any sudden movement that could lead officers to believe you are a threat.

ACTS OR THREATS OF VIOLENCE

ACT OF VIOLENCE

If you are the victim or witness of an assault or other act of violence, call **911** immediately. If necessary, request immediate medical services; if you are unsure if medical services are needed, tell them you are unsure. When an act of violence occurs, the location of the act becomes a crime scene; do NOT disturb any evidence.

THREAT OF VIOLENCE

A threat of violence may be an implied or perceived threat. **Call 911 immediately if a threat seems immediate.**

In certain circumstances it may be more appropriate to call the **UNT Police** at their non-emergency number, **940-565-3000**, as soon as safely possible. These instances include:

- If the threat is not immediate. Describe the individual and details of the threat to the dispatcher.
- If the threat was made electronically. Be sure to retain the record; do not destroy it.
- If the threat was made by phone, contact the **UNT Police** using a different phone line if possible; take note of the caller's voice characteristics and background noises.
- If you are unsure but need police guidance for more information regarding a threat.

Ask an associate or other individual in the area to call for you if it is not safe for you to contact the police.

When dealing with a threatening individual:

- Let the individual know (if you are speaking with them) that you are there to help them
- Appear calm in your motions and voice
- Distance yourself if it is safely possible – get behind a closed, locked door if able

BOMB THREAT

Bomb threats can come in many forms. According to the Department of Homeland Security, the most common way such threats are received is by phone. Threats may also be made verbally, via email, written note, social media, or other means.

Remember that every bomb threat is unique and may need to be handled differently from previous threats, depending on the nature of the threat and the facility/environment in which it occurred. Your role is to notify the UNT Police Department as soon as possible, along with your supervisor, building staff, or professor. The UNT Police Department will evaluate the threat and determine the next course of action.

IN-PERSON THREATS

The first, and possibly the most important step, is to stay calm. Your job at this point is to gather and communicate as much information as possible to share with the UNT Police.

Immediately after receiving an in-person threat, follow these steps:

1. Note which direction the person went (if they have left). If the individual remains in the building, carefully keep an eye on them.
2. Write down the threat exactly as it was communicated
3. Call **911** and notify your supervisor
4. Note the description of the person who made the threat:
 - a. Name (if known)
 - b. Gender
 - c. Body size (height/weight)
 - d. Distinguishing features
 - e. Race
 - f. Type/color of clothing
 - g. Hair and eye color
 - h. Voice (loud, deep, accent, etc.)
5. Follow all instructions from first responders

Do NOT tell others about the threat, as doing so could cause extreme anxiety. Additionally, do NOT initiate a building evacuation unless specifically directed to do so by first responders.

WRITTEN THREATS

Written bomb threats may be posted via social media, sent via email, or mailed. No matter how it is received, it is important to take the threats seriously and report them right away. If you ever receive a written bomb threat, follow these steps:

1. If the threat is handwritten or printed, handle the document as little as possible, rewrite the threat exactly as it is on another sheet of paper, secure the original threat in a bag/envelope or a safe location
2. If the threat is on your computer (email or social media), take a screenshot of the threat and print it out
3. Take note of the following information:
 - a. Name and/or username of individual who made the threat (if known)
 - b. Date and time of the threat
 - c. Where and when the threat was found
 - d. Names of any other personnel who saw the threat
 - e. Any other pertinent information about the threat (e.g. subject line)
4. Notify the UNT Police Department (940-565-3000) and your supervisor
5. Follow all instructions from first responders

THREATS BY PHONE

The Department of Homeland Security has created Bomb Threat by Phone Checklist. This checklist is a valuable tool and can help you as a call-taker to ensure you are collecting the critical information that will assist law enforcement personnel in assessing and addressing the incident.

[Download the checklist here.](#) Print a copy out and keep it near your workstation.

If you receive a bomb threat by phone, implement the following procedure:

1. Take the caller seriously and remain calm
2. Write a note or motion to a coworker, alerting them to “Call **911** to report a bomb threat,” if safely possible
3. Retrieve a notepad and pen, if safely possible without hanging up the phone—**take notes throughout the phone call**
4. Try to keep the caller on the phone by asking questions:
 - When will it explode?
 - Where is it right now?
 - What does it look like?
 - What kind of bomb is it?
 - Where did you leave it?
 - Did you place the bomb?
 - Who is the target?
 - Why did you plant it?
 - What is your address?
 - What is your name?

NOTE: Do NOT interrupt the caller or hang up.

1. Take note of:
 - The caller's speech patterns, including accent and tone
 - The caller's emotional state (i.e. is the caller angry, agitated, calm, etc.)
 - The background noise, including traffic sounds, people talking, accents, music, and so on
 - The caller's age and gender
2. Immediately upon termination of the call **DO NOT HANG UP**
3. Call **911** immediately from **a different phone** line after the caller has hung up

Report all details of the call and comply with police instructions

TIPS FOR ANY BOMB THREAT SITUATION

- Do NOT use 2-way radios or cell phones – only use landlines
- Secure the area if possible (ask students, staff, faculty, and visitors to leave the area when the threat was made), allowing entry to emergency responders only
- Wait for guidance from the UNT Police before initiating a full building evacuation
- If ordered to evacuate...
 - Leave doors and windows open— **Do NOT turn light switches ON or OFF**
 - Use stairs only—**Do NOT use elevators**
 - Once outside, follow the directions of first responders
 - Wait for emergency response personnel to say it is safe to re-enter the affected area

BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE CLEAN UP

(FOR NON-MEDICAL AND NON-LAB SETTINGS)

Following the OSHA Bloodborne Standard, UNT has established specific protocols for blood, other bodily fluids, and other potentially infectious materials (OPIM) cleanup. The protocols begin with ensuring that any worker who will be involved in the cleanup of blood, bodily fluids, or OPIM have proper (and up to date-annually) remediation training (Bloodborne Pathogen and Exposure Control Training-BBB/ECP). Workers without current BBP/ECP training must not participate in biohazardous waste cleanup. In addition, the blood cleanup protocols mandate that workers assigned to this task must have proper personal protective equipment (PPE).

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Following the OSHA Blood Pathogen Standard, the following associated PPE needed when workers are exposed to blood, other bodily fluids, and OPIM includes:

- **Required:** Disposable gloves
- **Required:** Protective eyewear
- **Recommended:** Masks or face shields
- **Recommended:** Protective gowns or uniforms

REQUIREMENTS FOR CLEAN UP

The other requirements for blood and OPIM cleanup include:

- Immediately limit access to the area contaminated by blood, bodily fluids, or OPIM.
- Cleanup blood, fluids, and materials as quickly and thoroughly as possible.
- Cover spill with absorbent material prior to addition of disinfectant to prevent splashes
- Disinfect with EPA-approved disinfectant all items that came into contact with blood, fluids, or biological materials.
- Ensure contact time of disinfectant is used according to manufacturer recommendations
- Dispose of the collected blood (and other materials) together with the items used to cleanup these biomaterials in a proper biohazard receptacle (red biohazard bag).
- If disinfection is impossible, any contaminated items need to be removed and properly disposed of.
- Although not a specific UNT nor OSHA requirement, deodorization is another step taken when it comes to comprehensive remediation of a traumatic scene or other situation in which blood or other biomaterials are present.
- Properly dispose of all protective gear utilized in the blood cleanup process.

- Safely and properly transport all items designated for disposal as normally required by facilities to be transported to a licensed biological material and hazardous waste disposal provider.

NOTE: If you have not been trained on biohazardous cleanup, are not current on your training (BBP/ECP), or do not have the proper PPE, DO NOT attempt clean-up and removal. Please contact **Risk Management Services (940-565-2109)** for assistance.

CAR ACCIDENT

ON-CAMPUS TRANSIT SAFETY

When walking on campus, always cross the street at crosswalks and use sidewalks when available. Always look both ways before crossing to ensure all vehicle operators see you.

When riding a bicycle, pay attention to stop signs and signals. When operated on roadways, bicycles are subject to the same guidelines as vehicles. Remember to yield to pedestrians within crosswalks.

When driving on campus, be aware of pedestrians and cyclists. Mind the speed limit: on campus it is 20 mph – and enforced!

If you operate a golf cart on campus, please remember to limit golf cart use on campus during busy times.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION

Preventable accidents are those in which the driver failed to exercise every reasonable precaution to prevent the accident. The following are guidelines to help prevent accidents:

- Avoid following too close
- Drive the appropriate speed for the environmental conditions (i.e. drive slower during rain or other inclement weather)
- Pay attention to clearances and do not try to drive under overpasses or other obstacles that could cause damage to the vehicle
- Obey all signs
- Adjust driving to accommodate:
 - Traffic conditions
 - Pedestrians
 - Road conditions
 - Weather conditions
 - Time of day
 - Driver's frame of mind
- Pay attention to turn lanes and do not turn where it is prohibited
- Pay attention to other drivers' signals
- Park only where it is permitted
- Do Not Drive While Intoxicated (DWI) or Drive Under the Influence (DUI)
- Do not drive aggressively
- NEVER drive distractedly – **Do NOT text and drive!**
- Keep emotions in check. Don't take frustrations out on other drivers

- Plan ahead and allow enough time for delays
- Do not tailgate or flash lights at other drivers
- If you are in the left lane and someone wants to pass, move over and let the driver pass you
- Use your horn sparingly

ACCIDENT RESPONSE

If you are in an accident (or you witness an accident) do the following:

1. Call 9-1-1 (off-campus)
2. Check for injuries. If people are injured, offer assistance.
3. Move the vehicles out of the roadway to a safer place to exchange names, addresses, phone numbers, vehicle identification numbers, vehicle license plate numbers, insurance information and driver license information. Take photos if it is safe to do so
4. Note the location of the crash and get the names, addresses and phone numbers of any witnesses.

NOTE: If you are in a collision and no one is hurt, don't wait for the police before moving your vehicle. If you can drive the vehicle, the law requires you to move it out of the flow of traffic. If the vehicles cannot be moved, call 9-1-1 and protect the scene by setting up flares or raising your hood.

UNIVERSITY-OWNED VEHICLE ACCIDENT REPORTING GUIDELINES

If the accident involved a University-owned vehicle, Complete an [accident report form](#) – these are available in every University-owned vehicle.

Provide the completed accident report form, police report, and any photographs of the accident to the Risk Management Services Insurance and Claims section within 24 hours of the accident, or as soon as possible if the accident occurs out of state and there is a delay experienced returning to campus.

CIVIL DISTURBANCE OR DEMONSTRATION

Civil disturbances include riots, demonstrations, groups of threatening individuals, or assemblies that have become disruptive and could potentially become destructive or violent.

If the disturbance or demonstration poses an immediate threat:

1. Call **911**
2. Provide the address, location, and incident details to the dispatcher
3. Do not provoke or enter the disturbance or demonstration – keep a safe distance
4. Secure your work area, logging off computers and securing sensitive files (if safely possible) should the disturbance be near your office location

NOTE: Keep a safe distance from the event. Remain inside and away from doors and windows if the event is outside of your building.

If a disturbance or demonstration does **NOT** pose an immediate threat but you are concerned that the event may escalate, contact the **UNT Police** at **940-565-3000**.

CRIME PREVENTION

PERSONAL SAFETY STARTS WITH YOU!

There are many simple things you can do now to help keep yourself safe, whether on or off campus. When walking anywhere remember and follow these recommendations:

- Make eye contact with anyone in close proximity - this tells strangers that you know they are there
- Be aware of your surroundings - take time to look around yourself and be conscious of any persons or other safety hazards near you
- Walk in groups, if possible
- Wear clothing and shoes that allow you to move freely
- Be careful what you share on social media
- Avoid secluded places or places that are not well-lit. File a [work order with UNT Facilities](#) if you find a place on campus where a light has gone out

PROPERTY TIPS

- Limit the amount of cash and credit cards you carry
- Carry your ID but not your Social Security card
- Avoid using an ATM alone at night
- Secure valuables out-of-sight
- Never leave personal property unattended
- Lock your bike to a rack with a U-lock or chain
- Always lock your room, apartment, or house at all times
- Always look through the peephole or ask for an ID when someone comes to your room, apartment, or house
- Be incredibly cautious as to who you allow into your home or vehicle
- Lock your vehicle after leaving your vehicle and after getting into your vehicle
- Do not linger in your vehicle
- **Remember: No property is worth your life!**

PHONE TIPS

- Always have your cellphone and be sure it's charged. Your phone can be used to call or text **911** in an emergency on the UNT campus or in Denton, so it's important to make sure it always has enough battery to do that. Remote charging devices are a good item to keep with you, however they should regularly be checked to ensure they are holding a charge
- Be aware of your surroundings no matter where you are. Listening to music, talking on the phone, and texting can distract you. Make sure you are looking around continually and staying aware of what's happening in the area

- Never text and drive

SAFETY WHILE WORKING ON CAMPUS

If you are going to be working late on campus, let someone know. If someone is acting suspiciously, you may want to ask them if they need assistance or notify a supervisor or the police. If you see any strange or alarming behavior, immediately contact the **UNT Police (940-565-3000)** or, if you believe you are in danger, call **911**. It is recommended, when on campus, that you always carry your student or employee ID card.

SAFETY IN RESIDENCE HALLS

If you live on campus, there are a few things that are important for you to do to stay safe in your residence hall:

- Always lock your door and secure windows
- Never prop open doors
- Do not loan your room key to anyone
- Use the door peephole to identify visitors
- Do not let strangers in your room
- Talk with your roommate or RA about evacuation plans
- Make sure personal items of value have your personal ID (such as Texas driver's license number) engraved on them
- Get your bicycle engraved at the **UNT Police Department**

SAFETY IN PARKING LOTS AND NEAR VEHICLES

When walking through parking lots and near vehicles, make sure that you walk with purpose and make eye contact with any individuals who may be in the area. When you approach your vehicle, have your keys ready so that you can quickly get into the vehicle. Visually scan the vehicle before getting in to make sure it is safe. Once inside the car, close and lock all doors. Do not linger in your vehicle.

If you keep your car on campus, make sure you keep it maintained and don't leave it in one place for too long.

DISRUPTIVE OR HOSTILE PERSONS

Disruptive behavior is any behavior that interferes with other students, faculty, or staff and their access to a safe educational or work environment. This includes severe or ongoing and pervasive disruption of academic, administrative, and other campus activities. A disruptive person can be defined as any individual who exhibits the following actions:

- Makes threats of physical harm to you, others, or themselves
- Behaves in a bizarre manner or exhibits unstable behavior patterns
- Appears to be intoxicated or under the influence of a controlled substance
- Refuses to comply with instructions
- Is verbally abusive to you and or others

RESPONSE

When dealing with a disruptive or hostile individual:

1. Call **911** if there is an immediate threat
2. For a non-immediate threat or to discuss concerns for an individual contact the [UNT CARE Team for Students](#) at 940-565-4373 or careteam@unt.edu. The [faculty/staff CARE Team](#) is available through the campus Human Resources office.
3. Remain calm – try to have another person with you
4. Be courteous and confident toward that individual
5. Allow the individual time to express feelings and concerns—listen respectfully and objectively
6. Ask defusing questions, such as:
 - How can I help you?
 - What are your concerns?
 - What would you like to accomplish?
7. Contact the UNT Counseling Hotline at **940-565-2741** to get help with the individual's concerns, if necessary and safely possible to do so
8. Notify your supervisor and/or department chair
9. **DO NOT...**
 - Corner or crowd the individual
 - Attempt to touch the individuals
 - Blame anyone or “blow off” the hostile individual

ELEVATOR FAILURE

In the event of an elevator failure:

1. Activate the emergency/telephone button within the elevator (if you are inside the elevator)
2. Call the **UNT Police** at **940-565-3000** if the button does NOT work or if you are NOT within the elevator
3. Follow instructions from the **UNT Police**

Do NOT attempt to self-evacuate, help others self-evacuate, pry open the doors, or climb through the elevator roof escape hatch.

EVACUATION

EVACUATION OF A BUILDING

An building evacuation is called when there is a need to move students, staff, faculty, or visitors from one location to another. A localized evacuation from a campus building may become necessary during many different kinds of situations including, but not limited to: A bomb threat, fire, hazardous materials release, or gas leak.

To prepare for an evacuation:

- Be familiar with your building
- Know at least two exits for every building you go to
- Know your building's evacuation assembly area

RESPONSE

When ordered to evacuate, initiate the following steps:

- Quickly leave the building, taking the closest and safest way out
- **Do NOT use elevators** – those with access and functional needs should immediately go to the nearest **fire refuge area** and call **911**. Be aware that the integrity of fire refuge areas is only possible when all doors to the area remain closed. Fire refuge areas can be located on the emergency floor plans published by **Emergency Management & Safety Services** on the Mean Green Ready app.

Fire Refuge Area: A temporary haven from the effects of a fire or other emergency that would normally require evacuation. Generally, these locations are in enclosed stairwells with fire-rated doors.

- Begin sweeps towards exits and help others evacuate, if safely possible
- Take note of any individuals who are trapped, injured, or have access and functional needs who may still be in the building – share this information with first responders
- As you are evacuating...
 - Stay low if confronted with smoke
 - Check closed doors for heat with the back of your hand before opening
 - Close doors behind yourself as you are leaving
- Go to the designated evacuation assembly area – you can look up this location on www.emergency.unt.edu/emergency-floor-plans or on the [UNT Mean Green Ready App](#)

- Wait to re-enter the building until the **UNT Police** or **City of Denton Fire Department** have given the all-clear

CAMPUS-WIDE EVACUATION

The procedures for a campus-wide evacuation will vary depending on the nature of the incident. In cases when the decision has been made to evacuate, the campus will likely be evacuated in stages, beginning with the areas that are in the immediate vicinity of the incident. Other areas may then be evacuated, depending on the nature of the incident. This graduated evacuation is preferable to a total, immediate evacuation, as it identifies the populations most in danger, minimizes the likelihood of gridlock and congestion, and provides for emergency vehicles access and first responder personnel.

When you receive a campus evacuation order, immediately respond. Do not return to your residence or office to grab personal items. Immediately proceed to your vehicle and exit the campus. Directions to avoid dangerous areas will be provided when possible. If you do not have a vehicle on campus, follow the directions provided by Eagle Alert messaging. Once you are safe, immediately notify family and your campus contacts.

EXTREME TEMPERATURES

Extreme temperatures (specifically extreme heat events) are common in North Texas. While our campus has significant experience with hot temperatures, this does not mean the UNT community is immune from the impacts of these events. Likewise, while UNT is not frequently exposed to severe cold, these incidents are historically possible.

EXTREME HEAT

EXTREME HEAT TERMINOLOGY

- An **Excessive Heat Watch** means conditions are right to create an excessive heat event in the next 24 to 72 hours.
- An **Excessive Heat Advisory** means there will be extremely dangerous heat conditions within the next 12 hours - temperatures are expected to be 100° or higher for at least 2 days, and nighttime air temperatures will not drop below 75°
- An **Excessive Heat Warning** means there will be extremely dangerous heat conditions within the next 12 hours - temperatures are expected to be 105° or higher for at least 2 days and night time air temperatures will not drop below 75°
- **Heat Index** is what the temperature feels like to the human body – it is a measurement that combines air temperature and relative humidity

PREPARING FOR EXTREME HEAT

- Do not rely on a fan as your only cooling device - fans can create a false sense of comfort and do not lower body temperatures
- Cover your windows with curtains or drapes
- Learn to recognize the symptoms of heat illness
- Check the UNT Website, social media, and local media for updates regarding heat and weather-related news
 - [UNT Emergency Management - Facebook](#)
 - [UNT Emergency Management - Twitter](#)

DURING EXTREME HEAT

- Find air conditioning
- Stay indoors
- Wear loose, lightweight, light-colored clothing
- Avoid strenuous activity – especially outside
- If you are outside, find shaded areas
- Wear sunscreen, hats, sunglasses, and other protective gear
- Hydrate by drinking lots of water - avoid caffeine and alcohol
- Never leave people or pets inside a closed car
- Check on yourself, family members, neighbors, and pets for signs of heat-related illness

SIGNS OF HEAT-RELATED ILLNESS

HEAT CRAMPS

Signs: Heavy sweating during exercise, muscle pain, or spasms

Actions: Stop activity and move to a cool place. You should drink water or a sports drink and wait for the cramps to go away. Call a doctor if symptoms get worse or do not go away in 1 hour.

HEAT EXHAUSTION

Signs: Heavy sweating, fast and weak pulse, paleness of the skin, tiredness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, muscle cramps, headache, fainting (passing out)

Actions: Find air conditioning and rest, loosen or remove clothing, put cool wet cloths on body or take a cool shower/bath, hydrate by drinking water. Call a doctor if symptoms get worse or do not go away in 1 hour.

HEATSTROKE

Signs:

- Body temperature over 103° F
- Hot, red, dry, or damp skin
- Fast, strong pulse
- Headache, dizziness, confusion
- Losing consciousness

Actions: *Call 911 or get the person to a hospital immediately.* Heatstroke is a medical emergency. Move the person to a cooler place and help them cool down until help arrives. For more information about heat-related illness, visit this link: www.cdc.gov.

EXTREME HEAT DURING A POWER OUTAGE

During times of extreme heat, we may experience power outages due to high demand in electricity usage. If this happens, it is extremely important that you take action to protect yourself. You can use the tips mentioned above as well as these tips listed below.

- Contact your local health department or locate an air-conditioned shelter in your area
- Drink lots of water and try to stay cool
- Keep your pets hydrated
- Take cold showers or baths
- Move to the lowest level of your home or building as cool air falls

- Block the sun from windows by using curtains, drapes, blinds, or lining with aluminum foil
- Keep your fridge or freezer closed – food can stay good up to 4 hours during a power outage
- Keep windows and doors closed – try not to let cool air out and warm air in
- Watch for symptoms of heat-related illness in yourself and those around you

EXTREME COLD

Extreme cold may be considered any temperatures below freezing (32 degrees F). During an extreme cold event, your body must work extra hard to regulate a normal body temperature. Though extreme cold is relatively rare in North Texas, it is not impossible; below normal body temperatures can be fatal, so extreme cold must be taken seriously each time it occurs.

Cold temperatures can become especially dangerous when the air temperature is extremely cold and the wind is blowing at high speeds. Winds can cause heat to leave your body more rapidly, making it difficult for you to be insulated.

The following slides will describe what you can do during extreme cold to be prepared and prevent cold-related illnesses.

PREPARE

The best time to prepare for extreme cold is before it occurs. Take some or all of the following actions to be ready for extreme cold:

- Pay attention to weather reports, freezing weather, and winter storm warnings
- Prepare and plan for what you would do in the event of a power outage
- Purchase warm clothes that would be appropriate for layering
- Gather supplies in case you need to stay home for several days without power

DURING EXTREME COLD

During an extreme cold event, take some or all of the following actions to prevent cold-related illnesses emergencies:

- Limit your time outside
- Wear many layers of clothing if you must go outside
- Monitor for emergency information and alerts
- Close blinds or curtains to keep heat in the home
- Close off rooms you are not using to avoid wasting heat
- Stuff towels or rags in cracks under doors
- Check on your neighbors and other individuals who may be more susceptible to the cold (older adults and young children)

- Stay off roads, if there is also winter precipitation such as snow, freezing rain, or ice – If you must drive, practice extreme caution
- Be alert for signs of hypothermia or frostbite

COLD-RELATED ILLNESSES

It's important to know the signs of cold-related illnesses and how to respond to those illnesses. Elderly individuals, children, and those with underlying health conditions are especially at risk of cold-related illnesses; however, anyone can be impacted. The best method to prevent cold-related illness is to stay warm, stay indoors, and—if you must go out—BUNDLE UP. The following slides will discuss two cold-related illnesses that you should be aware of. The key in any cold-related illness is quick response

FROSTBITE

Frostbite is caused by freezing of the skin and tissue. Frostbite causes a loss of feeling and color around the face, fingers, and toes. Other symptoms of frostbite include numbness, white or grayish-yellow skin, and firm or waxy skin.

If an individual experiences frostbites, they should take the following actions:

1. Go to a warm room
2. Soak skin in warm water
3. Use body heat to warm – DO NOT massage the skin or use a heating pad
4. Seek medical attention if symptoms do not improve

HYPOTHERMIA

Hypothermia is when the human body reaches an unusually low body temperature (any temperature below 95 degrees F). The symptoms of hypothermia including shivering, exhaustion, confusion, fumbling hands, memory loss, slurred speech, or drowsiness.

If an individual experiences hypothermia, they should take the following actions:

1. Go to a warm room
2. Warm the center of the body first—chest, neck, head, and groin
3. Keep dry and wrapped up in warm blankets, including the head and neck
4. Seek medical attention if conditions do not improve

FIRE

FIRE RESPONSE

If you see a fire in the building:

1. Call 9-1-1
2. Put out the fire with a fire extinguisher, if you are trained and able to do so
3. If you are unable to put out the fire with an extinguisher, evacuate the building – alert others in your area to evacuate
4. Stay low and out of the smoke
5. Pull a fire alarm as soon as possible
6. Head to your building's designated meeting area: you can look this up on emergency.unt.edu/emergency-floor-plans
7. **DO NOT** re-enter the building until an all-clear from the Fire Department is given

If you hear a fire alarm in the building:

1. Assume all alarms are real
2. Evacuate the building – alert others in your area to evacuate
3. Stay low and out of the smoke
4. Head to your building's designated meeting area
5. **DO NOT** re-enter the building until an all-clear from the Fire Department is given

If you are unable to leave the building, create an area of refuge:

- Call 9-1-1
- Stay below the smoke—cover your nose and mouth with a wet cloth, if possible, and only breath through your nose
- Signal for help
- Seal up all of the room's vents and cracks using a wet cloth or other materials
- Only open or break windows if there is **NO** chance of fire coming in the room

FIRE PREVENTION AND PREPAREDNESS

To prevent fire, ensure your workplace is free of the following fire hazards and combustible materials:

- Scrap paper
- Cardboard
- Trash
- Dust
- Flammable liquids
- Exposed heating elements (toaster ovens and other heat-producing appliances)

- Make sure that stairways are never blocked and fire doors are kept closed (unless they are held open by an approved device that releases to close the doors when the fire alarm is activated). If you notice burned out EXIT lights, contact **Emergency Management & Safety Services**
- Ensure exit doors will always open with the flow of egress without keys or special knowledge

Contact **Emergency Management & Safety Services' Fire and Life Safety Team at 940-369-6435 or 940-369-6436** immediately if you discover missing or broken fire safety equipment.

Be mindful of overloaded electrical circuits and outlets, damaged wiring, defective switches, and damaged plugs; these can be causes of electrical fires. Take note of any mechanical equipment in your workspace; if the equipment is inadequately lubricated or cleaned, it could cause a fire. Contact **UNT Facilities at 940-565-2700** if you discover any of these issues.

Faculty or staff who would like to place a space heater in their office, contact Facilities (940-565-2700) prior to purchasing the space heater. Facilities will check to see if your area can be made more comfortable by adjusting the HVAC system. Additionally, Facilities will ensure the electrical system has been evaluated and is able to support space heater use. All space heaters must be inspected by approved by the **Emergency Management & Safety Services Fire and Life Safety Office (940-369-6435 or 940-369-6436)** prior to operation. Any questions regarding space heaters should be directed to the **Emergency Management & Safety Services Fire and Life Safety Office**.

Be familiar with the fire extinguishers in your workplace; be sure to know basic extinguisher operation, as well as the types, sizes, and maintenance requirements of your workplace's extinguishers. Contact **Emergency Management & Safety Services at 940-369-6153** if you would like to host a fire extinguisher training.

GAS LEAK

Natural gas leaks are generally identified by smell and sound. If you smell an odor that resembles the smell of rotten eggs or you hear an unusual hissing noise, it may be caused by a natural gas leak.

When natural gas reaches certain levels, it can become flammable, or even explosive in confined areas and pose a great danger to those nearby. If you find a possible natural gas leak, complete the following actions:

FAINT SMELL OF NATURAL GAS

1. Evacuate the area as quickly as possible
2. **DO NOT** utilize any potential sources of ignition (light switches, electrical equipment, cell phones, etc. – anything that has the potential to create a spark)
3. Do not turn off or on electrical switches such as light switches. This may become a source of ignition
4. Warn others in the area of the possible leak
5. Contact **UNT Facilities** at **940-565-2700** from 8 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday—provide them your name and the location of the odor
NOTE: After-hours, contact the **UNT Police** at **940-565-3000** (non-emergency line)
6. Follow instructions from first responders

OVERWHELMING SMELL OF NATURAL GAS OR SIGNS OF A MAJOR LEAK OR PIPELINE BREAK

1. Evacuate the area as quickly as possible
2. **DO NOT** utilize any potential sources of ignition (light switches, electrical equipment, cell phones, etc. – anything that has the potential to create a spark)
3. Do not turn off or on electrical switches such as light switches. This may become a source of ignition
4. Warn others in the area of the possible leak
5. Call **911** to report a gas leak (**do NOT make the phone call before evacuating the area—cell phones can ignite natural gas**)
6. Follow instructions from first responders

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS HANDLING AND SPILL RESPONSE

If you ever have questions or concerns about hazardous materials that may be present in your workplace, call **UNT Risk Management** at **940-565-2109**. Any container containing a substance that is not labeled should be considered hazardous.

CHEMICAL STORAGE

All chemicals must be handled carefully and stored properly. Every chemical in a workplace or laboratory must have a Safety Data Sheet (SDS) which contains information about individual chemicals. In addition to having an SDS, all chemicals must be labeled with—at a minimum—the following information:

- The name of the chemical
- Hazards of the chemical
- Personal protection needed for the chemical
- First aid information in the event of a release

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be used when working with hazardous materials.

Do a search on MSDS Online at www.msdsonline.com for the SDSs to provide to first responders. You can do this on a mobile device or computer.

SPILL RESPONSE

If there is a hazardous materials spill:

1. Isolate the spill if possible and evacuate the area
2. Call **911**
3. Contact **UNT Environmental Risk** at **940-565-2109** between 8 am and 5 pm Monday through Friday
4. Contact the **UNT Police** at **940-565-3000** if the spill occurs after normal working hours
5. Follow instructions from **UNT Police**, **UNT Risk Management**, or other first responders

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DISPOSAL

NEVER throw away hazardous materials in a trash can or down a drain. Hazardous materials include hazardous substances and any items or equipment used to handle/clean equipment. In order to properly dispose of hazardous materials, submit a [Hazardous Materials Pickup Request](#), available on the Waste Management page on

the Risk Management Services website: www.riskmanagement.unt.edu. Follow the instructions for labeling the waste, being as specific as possible.

HOSTAGE SITUATION

IF SOMEONE ON CAMPUS IS TAKEN HOSTAGE:

1. Call **911**
2. Evacuate the area, if the hostage situation is happening onsite – isolate the hostage area
3. Communicate all known facts and provide all requested information about the area and the event to police
4. Follow instructions from first responders – **DO NOT** attempt to communicate with the hostage or suspect or intervene in the situation unless given direct orders from law enforcement personnel

IF YOU ARE TAKEN HOSTAGE:

1. Remain calm
2. Follow instructions from your captor(s)
3. Be polite
4. Avoid political or ideological conversation with your captor(s)
5. Try to establish rapport and a good relationship with your captor(s)
6. Memorize characteristics and details about your captor(s) and their demands
7. If forced to deliver messages to authorities, communicate that the demands are from your captor and NOT from you

WHEN RESCUED

Cooperate with law enforcement personnel. Keep your hands visible—avoid sudden movements or hostility toward rescuers. Since the situation may be tense and confusing to the rescuers, you may be handcuffed or searched. Comply with all instructions.

MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

Medical emergencies are one of the most common emergencies that occur on the UNT campus. Any of the following signs could indicate a medical emergency:

- Bleeding that will not stop
- Breathing problems (difficulty breathing, shortness of breath)
- Change in mental status (such as unusual behavior or confusion)
- Chest pain
- Choking
- Coughing up or vomiting blood
- Fainting or loss of consciousness
- Feeling of severe depression, anger, or anxiety
- Head or spine injury
- Inhaling or splashed with chemical
- Severe or persistent vomiting
- Sudden injury due to a motor vehicle accident, burns or smoke inhalation, near drowning, deep or large wound, or other injuries
- Sudden, severe pain anywhere in the body
- Sudden dizziness, weakness, or change in vision
- Swallowing a poisonous substance
- Severe abdominal pain or pressure

NOTE: This is not necessarily a comprehensive list.

IN ANY MEDICAL EMERGENCY, FOLLOW THESE STEPS:

1. Call **911** (or have someone call **911** for you)
2. Check to make sure that providing assistance does not endanger self or others
3. Send someone to get the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) located in each building on campus – AEDs can be located on the [UNT Mean Green Ready App](#). AEDs are used to treat cardiac arrest.
4. Ask the individual injured if you can provide assistance
 - a. If they say yes, provide first aid assistance to the extent that you feel able (our office recommends referring to the **American Red Cross First Aid App** for quick-reference first aid information)
 - b. If they say no, move away from the individual and wait for first responders
 - c. If they are unconscious, you have implied consent to provide assistance, as long as you are not negligent or performing medical tasks beyond your scope of training or understanding
5. Send someone to meet first responders at the door
6. Gather as much information about the injury or illness as able

7. Report the incident to **Risk Management Services** after the incident has ended

FOR MINOR INJURIES

Provide first aid (as appropriate) and encourage the individual to go to the **Student Health and Wellness Center** (students) or urgent care (faculty/staff) for evaluation. Report the incident to **Risk Management Services**.

STUDENT HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER

- 940-565-2333
- Web: studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center
- 1800 Chestnut Street - Chestnut Hall - 2nd Floor
- General questions: askSHWC@unt.edu Fall/Spring Hours: Mon-Thurs 8 am to 5:00 pm, Fri 9:15 am to 5:00 pm
- Summer Hours: Mon-Thurs 8 am to 5 pm, Fri 9:15 am to 5 pm
- If closed, students can see other options for care at: <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/resources/options-when-the-clinic-is-closed>

RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES

- 940-565-2109
- Web: riskmanagement.unt.edu
- Incident Report Form: https://riskmanagement.unt.edu/sites/default/files/incident_report_form.pdf
- 700 North Texas Boulevard – Risk Management Center
- General questions: askRMS@unt.edu

POWER OUTAGE

In the event of a power outage:

1. Call **UNT Facilities** at **940-565-2700** and the Building Rep – locate Building Rep contact information here: <https://facilities.unt.edu/resources/building-rep>
2. Avoid all electrical equipment and machinery, as they may turn back on suddenly and lead to injury
3. Check to see if any students, faculty, staff, or visitors are trapped in elevators or other potentially hazardous areas
4. Call **911** if there are any individuals trapped or in need of emergency assistance
5. Evacuate the building if emergency lighting fails
6. Follow directions from first responders and **UNT Facilities**

NOTE: Always use flashlights when walking in unlit areas of the building.

PRECAUTIONS FOR LAB USERS

- Put vital equipment on emergency power circuits if available
- Make a list of equipment that must be reset or restarted
- Keep fume hood sashes **CLOSED** and all containers capped
- Check cold storage items. Use dry ice if necessary
- Notify appropriate personnel if critical areas have been impacted by the outage, such as research involving animals, electricity-dependent research or processes, freezers containing research materials or chemicals, or time-course research

SECURE-IN-PLACE

Secure-in-Place means placing a locked door or other barricade between yourself and the exterior of the building where a threat exists. A secure-in-place may be called for a potential threat on or near campus, hostage situation, or other violent situation on or near campus. A secure-in-place may be initiated by:

- An order from first responders
- An Eagle Alert instructing you to secure-in-place
- An announcement through the building's intercom system

WHAT TO DO

When ordered to go into a secure-in-place, do the following:

- Stop what you are doing – if you have time, save and secure any sensitive information, files, or programs
- Get into an office, residence hall room, meeting room, or other space with little to no windows and lock all doors
- If you cannot lock the door, blockade the door with large, heavy furniture and other bulky objects
- Close blinds and turn off lights
- **If unable to get indoors**, lie flat on the ground and get behind an obstruction
- Remain completely quiet
- Silence cell phones and any other noise producing objects
- Stay low to the ground, on the floor, staying away from windows and doors
- Take cover under furniture or other large objects, placing as many items as possible between you and the threat
- **DO NOT** peek out windows or doors to see what may be occurring
- **DO NOT** answer knocks on the door
- **DO NOT** evacuate if a fire alarm is activated **unless** you are positive a fire is occurring
- Call or text **911** if a life threatening emergency is occurring in your immediate vicinity
- Help others when able
- Remain in your safe location until informed by police or circumstances warrant an immediate evacuation
- **When police arrive:**
 - Obey ALL commands given by police officers
 - **DO NOT** run at them or make sudden movements
 - **DO NOT** hold anything in your hand that could be mistaken for a weapon

SEVERE WEATHER

The weather in North Texas can be brutal. The weather is among one of the biggest risks we face at UNT. With this in mind, we want to make sure you fully understand the weather risks we face. Severe weather hazards most common in North Texas include the following:

- Tornadoes
- Severe Thunderstorms
- High Winds
- Flooding
- Lightning

TORNADOES

A tornado is a rapidly rotating column of air that is connected to a cloud and making contact with the ground. Tornadoes can be incredibly destructive, with wind speeds in excess of **200** mph possible. Tornadoes are generally associated with the spring months, but tornadoes can also happen any time of year in North Texas.

TORNADO WATCH

A tornado watch means that conditions are favorable for tornadoes to form. If the National Weather Service issues a tornado watch, remain alert and monitor the weather in the event of announcements.

TORNADO WARNING

A Tornado Warning means a tornado has been sighted or radar indicates rotation in the clouds. If the National Weather Service issues a tornado warning for Denton County, take the following actions:

1. Proceed to your designated shelter area (which should be an interior room without windows on the lowest level of the building) informing all individuals along your route to take shelter in a designated shelter location
2. Move away from windows, doors, and exterior walls
3. Get under a piece of furniture, if safely possible
4. Monitor the National Weather Service website and social media to determine when the warning has ended
5. Do not leave your shelter until you receive an Eagle Alert explaining that the warning has ended

If you are in a car or outdoors during a Tornado Warning and cannot get to a building, cover your head and neck with your arms and cover your body with a coat or blanket, if possible. Do not try to outrun a tornado in a vehicle.

After a tornado warning, check those around you and your area of the building for injured persons. Call **911** if there are injuries or significant damage. If you smell natural gas, open the windows and exit the building; call **911** once you are safely away from the building. Refer to the Gas Leak procedure in this manual.

Evacuate damaged buildings and do not re-enter unless the building has been officially declared safe. Comply with instructions from first responders.

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM

Severe thunderstorms - producing high winds, flash flooding, and hail - can be just as dangerous and deadly as tornadoes. All thunderstorms have the potential to produce strong winds, excessive lightning, and hail of various sizes.

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WATCH

A Severe Thunderstorm Watch is issued when environmental conditions are right to produce severe thunderstorms in and around the watch area. This does not guarantee that severe thunderstorms will form, but individuals within the watch area should take action to ensure they are prepared for storms. This may include creating contingency plans for outdoor events or ensuring all individuals in your workplace or residence hall understand the dangers of severe thunderstorms.

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING

A Severe Thunderstorms Warning means a severe thunderstorm has been sighted or indicated by radar. A thunderstorm may be defined as "severe" if it meets one or more of the following criteria:

- It contains winds of **58** mph or faster
- It contains hail that is **1**-inch diameter or larger

When the National Weather Service issues a Severe Thunderstorm Warning:

- Get indoors and away from windows
- Do NOT go outside to move your vehicle or perform any other outdoor activity as the storm is likely to produce excessive lightning and damaging hail
- Monitor the weather closely, as the storm could escalate and produce a tornado or other weather hazard(s)
- If your building has sheltering locations that are normally locked, make sure they are unlocked.
- Listen to a NOAA Weather Radio, local news stations, radio stations, or weather-related social media pages for updates on weather conditions

HIGH WIND

High winds are common in North Texas. High wind warnings are issued by the National Weather Service if winds are sustained at **40** mph or are gusting up to **58** mph. Wind advisories are issued during strong winds that may not have reached the threshold required to issue a high wind warning. High winds can reach tornado force, causing severe damage to homes and property. Though windy conditions may be common in North Texas, watches, advisories, and warnings should be taken seriously.

HIGH WIND WATCH

If a **High Wind Watch** has been issued, move or secure your vehicle, bicycle, or loose outdoor items, if safely possible before the wind (**DO NOT** try to move these objects during a high wind event).

WIND ADVISORY OR HIGH WIND WARNING

If a **Wind Advisory** or **High Wind Warning** has been issued for UNT, alert those in your area of the Advisory/Warning. Take shelter indoors, away from windows in an interior room or basement if the winds reach damaging levels

If you are caught outside or driving during severe wind, shelter in your car. Drive your car to a sturdy building, if safely possible. Try to park your car somewhere where it is less likely that it will be hit by falling trees or power lines.

While driving in high winds:

- Hold the steering wheel with both hands – high winds can cause your vehicle to drift
- Keep a distance from large vehicles such as trucks, buses, or vehicles pulling trailers – high winds can blow these vehicles over

FLOODING

Flooding and flash flooding are incredibly dangerous. According to FEMA, just six inches of water can sweep a person off of their feet; just a foot and a half can cause a vehicle to lose control and stall. Remember to **NEVER** walk or drive through rushing water. Water moving at **25** mph, has the pressure equivalent of wind blowing at **790** miles per an hour, according to experts from The Weather Channel.

In the case of flooding, get to high ground and stay off of the roads or other flooded areas. Avoid the following objects and activities:

- Downed power lines or electrical wires—water conducts electrical current and can cause electrocution; always assume downed power lines are “live”
- Floating, boating, swimming, rowing, or other water activities

LIGHTNING

No area outside is completely safe from lightning. In the event of lightning, take shelter indoors immediately. Remember, if you can hear thunder, lightning is close enough to strike: “***When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors.***” Stay indoors until **30** minutes after you last heard thunder. **Lightning is a hazard with ALL storms.**

When indoors during lightning, follow these safety precautions:

- Stay off of corded phones, computers, or other electrical equipment
- Avoid plumbing, including sinks, baths, and faucets
- Stay away from windows and doors
- Stay inside and off of porches and balconies
- **DO NOT** lie or lean against concrete walls or floors

If you are caught outside during lightning, follow these safety tips:

- Get down from elevated areas (hills, ridges, etc.)
- **DO NOT** lie flat on the ground
- **DO NOT** seek shelter under a tree
- **DO NOT** take shelter under a cliff or rocky overhand
- Get out of bodies of water (ponds, lakes, etc.)
- Get away from bodies of water
- Avoid objects that conduct electricity (wire fences, power lines, windmills, etc.)

If your office or department has an outdoor event during a storm, move the event indoors or delay the event until **30** minutes after the last heard thunder.

SHELTER-IN-PLACE

Shelter means to find personal protection within the building you are in, making minor adjustments to the environment if needed, and staying in that location until it is safe to return outside. Sheltering may be required during many different kinds of situations, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Severe weather conditions (most common)
- Hazardous materials release

Sheltering may be initiated by the following:

- An order from the **UNT Police** or **City of Denton Fire Department**
- A shelter alarm (sometimes termed a Tornado Alarm)
- An Eagle Alert instructing sheltering-in-place
- The City of Denton outdoor warning sirens

RESPONSE

When ordered to shelter, initiate the following steps:

- Direct all individuals in the assigned area to go to the nearest shelter areas – You can find your shelter area on emergency.unt.edu/emergency-floor-plans
- If the event is related to a ***hazardous materials release***
 - Shut and lock all windows and doors – seal gaps with duct tape or plastic sheeting if possible
 - Turn off all electronic equipment
 - Close all blinds
- If the event is related to a ***tornado warning***
 - Encourage others to take additional cover by shielding their head and neck with arms and putting materials such as furniture and blankets around themselves
 - Listen to NOAA Weather Radio, the local news/radio, or local alerting systems (such as City of Denton CodeRED or UNT Eagle Alert) for current emergency information and instructions

NOTE: If you are in a car or outdoors and cannot get to a building, cover your head and neck with your arms and cover your body with a coat or blanket, if possible. Do not try to outrun a tornado in a vehicle.

- Stay in the shelter area until an Eagle Alert is sent informing you that it is safe to leave your shelter

SUSPICIOUS PACKAGE OR UNATTENDED ITEM

SUSPICIOUS PACKAGE

The following descriptions are characteristics of a suspicious package, according to the Department of Homeland Security:

- Rigid or bulky
- Lopsided or uneven
- Wrapped in string
- Badly written or misspelled labels
- Generic or incorrect titles
- Excessive postage or no postage
- Foreign writing, postage, or return address
- Missing, nonsensical, or unknown return address
- Leaks, stains, powders, or protruding materials
- Ticking, vibration, or other sound

In the event you receive or discover a suspicious package:

1. Stop handling the package
2. Move away from the package
3. Call **911**
4. Clear the area of all persons
5. Wash your hands if you were exposed to a substance on or within the package
6. Shut down all equipment in the immediate area (HVAC)

Take note of the:

- Location of mail piece or substance
 - Description of substance
 - Description of the package (markings, labels, declarations, postage)
 - Addressee's name and address
 - Mailer's name and address
7. Contact your supervisor
 8. Follow all instructions from the **UNT Police** or other first responders

UNATTENDED ITEM

Unattended items, in most cases, are simply lost property and are neither suspicious or a threat. However, some unattended items may be suspicious and need to be reported. If an unattended item is found, use the following steps to determine if it needs to be reported and, if so, how to appropriately report the items while keeping others safe.

CONFIRM

Confirm that the item is suspicious. As mentioned, most unattended items are lost property—left by mistake—and present no threat. There are some ways in which you can determine if an unattended item seems out-of-place. Ask and answer the following questions about the item:

- Does it seem to be hidden? Does it appear that an individual is trying to hide the item from others?
- Is it obviously suspicious? Are there wires, a smell, unusual stains, or anything else that obviously appears suspicious?
- Is it typical of the bags or items of the setting? For example, large duffle bags are common at the Rec Center, but may seem out-of-place if left in a classroom.

Ask individuals in the nearby area if the item is theirs or if they know who it belongs to.

COMMUNICATE

If the item seems to be suspicious or present a possible threat:

1. **DO NOT** touch the item
2. Ask individuals in the area to move away from the item – try to keep yourself and others out of the line-of-sight of the item
3. Notify the **UNT Police** at 940-565-3000 using a landline phone
4. Block off the area, if possible
5. Keep eyewitnesses nearby so they can tell the police what they witnessed

WATER LEAK OR PLUMBING FAILURE

In the event of a water leak or plumbing failure leading to flooding in the building:

1. Call **UNT Facilities** at **940-565-2700** during business hours; contact the **UNT Police** at **940-565-3000** if the event is occurring after normal business hours
2. Do NOT turn on lights or other electrical equipment – electrical current can be conducted through water potentially leading to electrocution
3. Cover or move items that can be damaged by water, if safely able to do so
4. Evacuate the area
5. Follow instructions from **UNT Facilities** and the **UNT Police**

If a water supply failure occurs in the building:

1. Call **UNT Facilities** at **940-565-2700** during business hours; contact the **UNT Police** at **940-565-3000** if the event is occurring after normal business hours
2. Place signs in the bathrooms and on water fountains indicating there is no water supply
3. Await further instruction from **UNT Facilities** or the **UNT Police**
4. Once the water supply is returned, place signs on the fountains that tell individuals **NOT** to drink from the fountain – do not consume any water until you are informed that it is safe to drink

WINTER WEATHER

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE WINTER WEATHER

When university officials think weather conditions pose a significant threat to the safety of students, faculty and staff who drive to campus, UNT will delay its opening time, close early or close for the day.

University officials make every attempt to decide about the need for delayed-openings or closures as early as possible.

Online classes taught via Canvas are not affected by weather delays and closings, unless the course instructor otherwise informs students.

CHECK UNT WEBSITE, FACEBOOK AND LOCAL MEDIA FOR WEATHER INFORMATION

When inclement weather conditions exist, visit www.unt.edu, check the UNT Facebook page or listen for weather details on local media outlets before you begin driving to campus. You can also follow @UNTEagleAlert and @UNTSocial on Twitter to get emergency updates in real time.

Current UNT students, faculty and staff should receive an Eagle Alert message notifying them that the university is closing or if the opening time is delayed. Before severe or winter weather arrives, be sure your contact number is correct. Faculty and students should update their information at my.unt.edu and staff should update their information at my.untsystem.edu.

If the weather conditions could make driving dangerous, please check local media reports or the web site before setting out for campus. **Only delayed openings or closures are announced. If an announcement is not made, then the university will be open.**

MIDDAY CLOSURES

The university may close and cancel classes in the middle of the day if weather conditions deteriorate. In those cases, in addition to the Eagle Alert, Facebook and Twitter messages, the university also will issue an Official Notice via Outlook and main telephone numbers for UNT departments may be forwarded to the university's Broadcast Notification System. The system will provide callers with up-to-date information.

CONSECUTIVE CLOSURES

If the university is closed for more than one day or if its opening is delayed, you should check the UNT web site at www.unt.edu or check the [UNT Facebook page](#) for the latest information. The university also will provide the information to campus telephone operators, and news media will be informed.

INFORMATION ABOUT ROAD CONDITIONS

Sometimes the university remains open during wintry weather conditions. Individuals who commute long distances to campus may want to contact the [Texas Department of Transportation's](#) area hotline for information on road conditions at (800) 452-9292. The 24-hour recording is updated regularly and includes information on highways in Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Kaufman, Navarro and Rockwall counties.

For information on road conditions in other counties, call the Texas Department of Transportation directly at (800) 452-9292. [View a detailed report of road closures that you customize based on your location.](#)

To access the Broadcast Notification System or to reach the university switchboard, call (940) 565-2000 or metro (817) 267-3731.

FOR UNT EMPLOYEES

If you are considered an essential staff member, check with your supervisor about whether you should report to work.

To accommodate UNT employees who must leave early for work, UNT will make every effort to make decisions about delayed openings and closures before 3 a.m. At that time, the university will notify the campus telephone operators, post a message to the university web site and begin informing news media.

When inclement weather conditions exist, visit www.unt.edu or listen for announcements on local media outlets before you begin driving to campus. View a list of media outlets that will announce closures in the extended entry.

If your department does not have an updated calling tree to notify staff members about delays and closures, this is a good time to revise your document and distribute it to all your departmental members.

BUSES AND SHUTTLE SERVICE

UNT's shuttle services is operated by Denton County Transportation Authority. [Check the DCTA site for weather- related service status.](#)

WINTER WEATHER TERMS

It may be helpful to learn these weather terms. A few important terms are:

- A "**freezing rain advisory**" means that periods of freezing rain or freezing drizzle will cause travel difficulties.
- A "**winter storm watch**" means conditions are right for ice and snow to develop.
- An "**ice storm warning**" means severe winter weather conditions are expected or occurring. Significant amounts of ice accumulations will make travel extremely dangerous or impossible.
- A "**winter storm warning**" means that an ice storm or snowstorm is entering the area.
- A "**winter weather advisory**" indicates that winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and hazardous driving.

DRIVE SAFE IN WINTER WEATHER

During winter weather conditions, it is best to stay off the road. However, for those times when you must get behind the wheel, make sure you know how to operate your vehicle safely. [Check out this video to learn about how to drive safely during inclement weather conditions.](#)