



# PREPARING THE PARLIAMENT



**KENNESAW STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
AND UNIVERSITY POLICE  
*Office of Emergency Management*

Severe Weather  
Emergency Kits

March Severe  
Weather  
Response

Severe  
Thunderstorm  
Safety &  
Preparedness

Tornado Safety  
& Preparedness

Preparing the Parliament is a monthly production of the KSU Department of Public Safety, Office of Emergency Management. This publication is provided to prepare students, faculty, and staff to be ready for and respond to potential emergencies and disasters which may occur on our campuses.



# The Director's Desk

James Westbrook  
Director of Emergency Management

Emergency management has often existed as a means of collaboration between agencies and departments for the common good. With the different expertise that exists within these areas, emergency management has worked as the glue to hold together and focus the emergency preparedness and response efforts for the community. These efforts allow for continuity of effort and to allow for the greatest efficiency in a chaotic environment. This has often been done in an ad hoc manner with emergency management providing order “just in time” to meet the needs of the community.

Today, we are seeing greater complexity within our communities that requires a more focused, strategic approach to emergency management. Instead of simply working towards a goal, it is important for us to have not just a goal, but a guiding plan of how to achieve that goal as well. This would be a strategic plan. A plan to outline the strategies to reach the goals we set for ourselves as a department. Strategic planning is certainly not new, as we have seen the newest KSU strategic plan rolled out over the last 6+ months. However, having a strategic plan within the Office of Emergency Management is new. Instead of us moving forward with the last disaster in mind, this will allow us to move forward with purpose and measured progression.

In the coming months, we will be working on a strategic plan in the Office of Emergency Management and will be reaching out to many of our partners across campus – both within the Crisis Coordinator community as well as with our partners in the operational and academic spaces on campus. Once established, we will share more information about this strategic plan and how we can do emergency management better here at Kennesaw State University.

# A MOMENT WITH...

## Russell Tandler, CRCR

Practice Manager

Wellstar - KSU Student Health Services



### **WHAT IS YOUR ROLE AT KSU/WELLSTAR AND HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT THE UNIVERSITY?**

My role at KSU is to manage the day-to-day operations of the Wellstar Student Health clinics on the Kennesaw campus and Marietta campus. I've been with Wellstar for 10 years and transitioned to this role in May of 2022.

### **WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF YOUR JOB?**

My favorite part of my job is getting to connect with my team and the students here on campus. I get to do events on campus and talk to the students about the services we offer solely for them. It's awesome getting to come to work on a college campus every day.

### **HOW DOES YOUR ROLE INTERACT WITH THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT?**

We partner with OEM in preparing for any type of event that could impact the university. Having a plan in place to ensure the safety of our students and team members is top priority. We partnered with OEM through COVID and managed to vaccinate over 30k people on this campus.

### **IF YOU COULD SHARE ONE HEALTH SAFETY/AWARENESS TIP, WHAT WOULD IT BE?**

Know where to go when you aren't feeling well. Many folks forget about all the Wellstar urgent cares and go straight to the emergency department incurring a much larger bill than if they went to an urgent care. Of course, there are certain circumstances that would require an emergency department visit but for common colds and minor injuries, services can be rendered from an urgent care.

### **DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE KSU TRADITION?**

I love going to see the Pumpkin launch on the Marietta campus. Seeing how innovative the students are with their creations and how much work goes into them is quite impressive.

### **WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO AWAY FROM CAMPUS?**

Outside of work I enjoy spending time with my 3 kids and wife. If we aren't at a baseball game, you can find us at our property tending to our "farm."

**Click here to learn more  
about KSU's Student  
Health Services!**



# SEVERE WEATHER SAFETY KITS

Christy Hendricks  
Continuity Planner

Severe weather season is upon us, and here in Georgia the weather is rather unpredictable! It can be warm and sunny one day, and chilly the next, or beautiful during the day, then thunderstorms that night. Now that it is officially severe weather season (March-May), let's focus on how to prepare at home. We talk a lot about emergency/go kits, but it's worth reminding you the importance of having a plan in place for when extreme weather happens and you must vacate your home or find refuge in a safe place.

Grab a backpack or duffle bag and fill it with some non-perishable food/snacks and water, a first aid kit, portable cell phone charger, flashlights and batteries, a multi-purpose tool such as a Swiss Army knife, sturdy shoes, and anything else you think would be useful to your family. Don't forget about your pets! When thinking about a longer-term displacement, add things like hygiene products, medications, cash, copies of important documents, etc.

[Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) is a reliable resource website for all your planning needs. It's never too early to prepare. Involve your children and make it a fun experience!







# WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING

Wayne Randle  
Emergency Management Coordinator

Ever wonder who is “minding the store” when storms pass through KSU’s campuses? During the spring months, storms are a given. Moving from winter through spring to summer, weather systems are known to cause severe weather. Georgia sees its share of thunderstorms, tornados, hail, and flooding. During these times when weather may impact either campus of KSU, the Office of Emergency Management monitors the weather and prepares to respond with resources and coordination to address any campus issues caused by the weather.

Such an event occurred overnight March 15-16. The days before the storm, OEM was already monitoring the weather, updating Public Safety departments and partners across campus. A long night was ahead, and the OEM staff continued active monitoring and response standby, ready to support should the worst happen. Storms indeed went through the area, bringing with them heavy rain and high wind gusts. While KSU only lost a couple of trees, nearby Paulding County suffered a tornado strike, causing building and tree damage. The tornado lifted just southwest of Allatoona High School.

So, who watches while many were sleeping? KSU Public Safety and Police, including the professionals of OEM. Standing ready to respond, monitoring and updating the situation to KSU leaders, and assuring you have someone in your corner, while you are sleeping.

## **March Storms by the numbers:**

**KSU Campuses:** Several Watches and Thunderstorm Warnings

**Paulding County:** Tornado damage to trees, buildings, power outages

**Metro Atlanta:** Downed trees and power lines

**Fayette, Coweta, Henry, Houston, Peach, Bibb Counties:**  
Tornados

# Upcoming Training Opportunities

## April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

**Apr 17** Severe Weather Safety & Response  
Academic Learning Center | 11AM-12PM

**Apr 17** CPR/AED Basic Life Support  
Norton Hall Police Precinct | 5:30PM-8PM

**Apr 22** CPR/AED Basic Life Support  
Prillaman Health Sciences | 8AM-10:30AM

Visit [our training website](#) for more information.

**Register  
here!**

We can bring training to you!  
Request training(s) for your department, classes, or group. [Email us!](#)



# SEVERE THUNDERSTORM SAFETY & PREPAREDNESS

Jamie Case

Emergency Preparedness Specialist



Include powerful winds



Cause flash flooding and tornadoes



Create lightning and hail

The most common type of natural disaster in Georgia is thunderstorms.

Lightning is a leading cause of injury and death from weather-related hazards.

Georgia as a whole experiences between 50 to 55 thunderstorm days annually.

Keep a basic emergency kit on hand for work, your car, and your home.

The safest place is a basement or interior room with no windows on the lowest level.

Severe thunderstorms are a common occurrence in Georgia, especially during spring and summer. In spring, the average number of thunderstorm days ranges from 3-6 days. This number increases in summer, with the average number of thunderstorm days ranging from 8-13 days.

Help protect yourself, your loved ones, and your community by preparing for severe weather!

When thunder roars, go indoors!



Pay attention to alerts and warnings.

Move from outdoors into a building or car.



Unplug appliances.

## Know Your Risk



No severe thunderstorm expected.  
Lightning and flooding threat still exists with all thunderstorms



**Enhanced (ENH)**  
Numerous severe thunderstorms possible



**Marginal (MRGL)**  
Isolated severe thunderstorms possible



**Moderate (MDT)**  
Widespread severe thunderstorms likely



**Slight (SLGT)**  
Scattered severe thunderstorms possible



**High (HIGH)**  
Widespread severe thunderstorms expected

## THUNDERSTORM WATCH

A Severe Thunderstorm Watch is issued when **a severe thunderstorm is possible**.

Stay tuned to forecast updates, monitor sky conditions, and know where to take shelter.

**Be Prepared.**

## THUNDERSTORM WARNING

A Severe Thunderstorm Warning is issued when **a severe thunderstorm is happening or about to happen**.

Take shelter immediately!

**Take Action!**

*Your chance of being struck by lightning **greatly increases** when remaining outdoors during a thunderstorm.*

*Lightning can strike from up to 10 miles away.*

*When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!*

*See a Flash, Dash Inside!*



weather.gov

Some of the activities people were doing when they were recently struck by lightning include:



Golfing



Boating



Running



Grilling



Walking



Construction



Riding



Gardening



Swimming

# TORNADO SAFETY & PREPAREDNESS

Omar-Shariff Roberts  
Emergency Preparedness Specialist

**Tornadoes are narrow, rotating air columns extending from thunderstorms to the ground.** There are two types of tornadoes: supercell tornadoes and non-supercell tornadoes. Supercell tornadoes are the most common type and are often the most dangerous, while non-supercells originate while a thunderstorm cloud is still developing. Tornadoes usually bring potent winds, over 200 miles per hour, strong enough to destroy buildings, flip cars, and create deadly flying debris. Though tornadoes can cause a lot of infrastructural damage, they also can disrupt the everyday supply chains, i.e., food, water, energy, etc.

## Find a safe location

- Some safe locations include basements, bathrooms, closets
- Stay from doors, windows, and outside walls
- Avoid vehicles
- Some campus buildings offer refuge areas



## Severe Weather can escalate quickly.

While the possibility of tornadoes can be forecast ahead of time, they can form in minutes, day or night. Will you be prepared?



Set up a way to get weather warnings any time of day



When alerted to a tornado, quickly get to a storm shelter or basement



If underground shelter isn't available, get to an interior hall away from windows



- A [tornado watch](#) is issued when conditions are favorable for a tornado to develop.
- A [tornado warning](#) is issued when the National Weather Service has detected a tornado.

- FEMA suggests storing at least one gallon of water per person per day
- If a tornado appears stationary or is not moving left or right, it's most likely moving toward you.
- Post a tornado, beware of fallen power lines/broken utility lines, and don't enter damaged buildings until you are told they are safe
- If you're in your car, do not try to outrun a tornado, and do not go under an overpass bridge.

## Sign up for emergency alerts!

- NOAA
- KSU RAVE Alert (auto-enrolled)
- Local Emergency Alerts



# Meet the Team!



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## **Download LiveSafe**

The free LiveSafe app provides students, faculty, and staff with a direct connection to campus police so that everyone can easily communicate all of their safety needs. Its easy-to-use features help you stay safe every day and enable us to provide better protection for you.

