

Oak Ridge Schools

Office of the Superintendent



Administrative Procedure 4.302 (B) Field Trips/Excursions/Competitions/ Tornado Warnings during Field Trips

November 2, 2017

TORNADO WARNINGS DURING FIELD TRIPS

A tornado is a violently rotating column of air that extends from a thunderstorm to the ground and is often visible as a funnel cloud. Tornadoes cause extensive damage to structures and disrupt transportation, power, water, gas, communications, and other services in its direct path and in neighboring areas.

In the Anderson County Hazard Mitigation Plan (2017), school buses are considered vulnerable to tornadoes and other extreme weather events as they can be damaged by hail, falling trees and other debris, and can be exposed to hazardous driving conditions by high-speed winds.

Therefore, if students are on a field trip and there is a tornado warning at their location, any responsible staff shall immediately ensure that all members of the field trip safely leave any buses and take shelter. Do not seek to continue the field trip or return to campus until the tornado warning is no longer in effect. When everyone is safely sheltered, call the principal of the school or Central Office to inform them of the situation.

It is best to take shelter in a windowless room on the lowest level of a sturdy nearby building. Do not take shelter in a manufactured home or office.

If it is impossible to find shelter in time, park the vehicle. Ask students to cover their heads with any available cover (e.g. coats). Do not park under an overpass or bridge. It is safer to be in a low, flat location. It is never advisable to try to outrun a tornado.