

Sunday, April 11, 2020

Early weather forecasts for Sunday, April 11 include the potential for severe weather. The Tuscaloosa County School System does have nine storm shelters available for community use when our schools are not in session. Please review the information below to learn how notification will be made as to when these storm shelters will open, rules for community use of storm shelters, and locations.

Notification of Shelter Opening

1. Notification to our school community for the opening of community shelters throughout West Alabama will be located on the West Alabama EMA website – the link to the website is: <https://www.tuscaloosacountyema.org/storm-shelters>
2. Since schools are not in session, no one will be maintaining the school office phones.
3. The timing of the opening of shelters is based upon close monitoring of the fronts moving in to our area with enough notice to get shelters open before dangerous weather arrives. It is almost impossible to provide a time for shelters to open in advance.
4. It is important to know that some safe rooms are located as part of the main school building and at some locations, there is a separate storm shelter where access is around the back or side of the school. Once on campus, follow the directional signs to locate the entrance to a storm shelter.

Guidelines for Community Use of Storm Shelters

1. **No pets are allowed.** We love our pets and know their safety is very important, but the overall risk to others (anxiety, allergies, unintended actions by pets who are also scared) is too great for us to allow pets in our storm shelters.
2. Absolutely **no use of tobacco, alcohol, or illegal substances** on school property.
3. **Weapons are not allowed** on school property at any time.
4. Children under the age of eighteen must be accompanied by an adult.
5. Staff members are in charge at all times and anyone entering the facility must immediately follow all rules and the directives of staff.
6. For the protection of all concerned, we cannot allow persons once inside to go in and out of the facility.