

# Tornado Plan

Richard Bland College is located in southeast central Virginia. In the past two decades, several tornados have touched down in and around this area. Most recently, Richard Bland College was placed under a tornado warning in the spring of 2011 because of Doppler indicated rotation in a severe thunderstorm which passed over the area. Each year the National Weather Service issues several severe thunderstorm warnings and tornado warnings for southeast and central Virginia. The College must remain prepared should a tornado strike our campus.

## **Alerting:**

If a tornado warning is issued for our area, an RBC Alert notification will be transmitted to all recipients that have signed to receive RBC Alerts. In addition, a siren will sound for approximately 60 seconds. NOAA weather radios will activate in those buildings which are equipped with them. Police Communications will announce these warnings via RBC Police and Facility Management radio frequencies during normal business hours.

## **Procedures:**

Below is a list of buildings and locations within the buildings where occupants shall seek refuge in the event of a tornado or tornado drill. Once you arrive in the predetermined location, sit in a crouched position on the floor with knees touching the ground. Bend your head toward your knees while covering the top of the head with your hands and arms. All individuals shall stay in this predetermined location and seated in this position until an all-clear signal is given by the Incident Commander. The Incident Commander will most likely be a campus police official.

Once the all-clear signal is given, you may return to your previous locations and duties. In the event of an actual tornado, staff, faculty and students will follow the College's Emergency Operations Plan and/or any instructions given by the Incident Commander.

Maze Hall: All occupants shall move to the hall way in the basement and/or any other area in the basement away from windows.

Humanities & SS: All occupants on the first floor shall remain in the room you are in and seek cover against the wall furthest from any windows. Persons on the second floor shall move to the first floor hallway for refuge.

Barn Theatre: All occupants shall move to the Green Room/costume storage area. All overflows will move to the restrooms.

Grounds Department: All occupants shall evacuate to the Barn Theatre and follow the Barn Theatre procedure.

Maintenance Shop: All occupants shall move to the restrooms.

Center for Student Affairs: All occupants will move to the workroom on the first floor, room 113. All overflows will move to the restrooms.

President & Vice President Residences: All occupants shall move to the basement under each house. RBC Police or staff member will notify the occupants once the danger has passed.

McNeer Hall: All occupants will move to the hallway of your respective floor and as far away from the end windows and main staircase as possible. Restrooms on each floor should also be used for additional sheltering.

Ernst Hall: All occupants shall move to the lecture hall on the first floor. All overflows will move to the restrooms.

Library and Commons: All occupants shall move to the restrooms located on the first floor of the library and Commons areas. If the restrooms will not provide enough room for everyone, occupants will seek refuge in the middle of the library underneath the computer tables.

Statesman Hall: All occupants shall move to the locker rooms. ITS staff will seek shelter in the locker rooms or in the restrooms in the middle of the building.

Patriot Hall: Resident Advisors will direct residents to the nearest stair well on each side of the building. Residents will move to the lowest level in the stairwell as possible. The first floor occupants may also use the men and women restrooms. Only use the side stairwells.

Freedom Hall: Resident Advisors will direct residents to the nearest stair well on each side of the building. Residents will move to the lowest level in the stairwell as possible. The first floor occupants may also use the men and women restrooms. Only use the side stairwells.

If You Are Caught Outside:

If you are on campus between buildings when the tornado siren sounds, move quickly to the nearest building and seek refuge in the designated area of that building.

If you cannot get to a building, lie down in a ditch below grade and cover your head with your hands. **Do not seek refuge in mobile property such as a vehicle.**