# Mini-Drill Program: Severe Weather

Department or Unit:   
Leader conducting Drill:   
Date Drill conducted:

## Objectives

1. Define Severe Thunderstorm Watch, Severe Thunderstorm Warning, Tornado Watch and Tornado Warning:
   1. **Severe Thunderstorm Watch:** Weather conditions exist whereby severe thunderstorms are more likely to occur.
   2. **Severe Thunderstorm Warning**: A severe thunderstorm has been reported or indicated by radar and may warrant protective actions or advisories.
   3. **Tornado Watch:** Atmospheric conditions are favorable for the development of severe thunderstorms capable of producing tornados.
   4. **Tornado Warning:** A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar for our area and requires protective actions
2. Identify policies that address inclement weather:
   1. Severe Weather
   2. Evacuation
3. Identify the first steps that should be taken if a Tornado Warning is called overhead:
   1. All building occupants should take immediate protective actions and move patients and visitors into safe locations (interior rooms, small ceiling area, no glass windows) if possible.
   2. Gather emergency items (flashlights, go-bag, etc.) and take to safe area.
   3. Protect patients and visitors from flying debris with pillows and blankets.
   4. Windows, blinds, and doors should be closed if time permits.
   5. Avoid use of elevators.

## Conducting the Drill

This drill can be conducted at huddles, staff meetings, or randomly in an area where staff members are gathered: break room, nursing station, etc. **This should take approximately 5-10 minutes.**

1. Introduce yourself and explain to the staff that you will be conducting a short mini-drill to increase awareness around emergency management concepts and response.
2. Ask the following questions:
   1. What is the difference between a Severe Thunderstorm Watch and a Severe Thunderstorm Warning?
   2. What is the difference between a Tornado Watch and a Tornado Warning?
   3. Describe a safe area during a tornado?
   4. Where are the safe areas on our unit or in our department?
   5. Where is the disaster equipment located (flashlights, go-bag, etc.)?
   6. Who would take responsibility for printing a patient list and tracking where patients are located?

### Upon drill completion

1. Record the names of individuals on the completion form.
2. Answer the questions included on the completion form.
3. Submit the completion form (hard-copy, email or through online survey):
4. Refer any additional questions to [fill in point of contact].

## Mini-Drill Survey

Were staff able to identify the difference between a “watch” and a “warning” for both Severe Thunderstorms and Tornados?   
Yes No  
Comments:

Were staff members able to identify the two policies that refer to inclement weather and evacuation?   
Yes No  
Comments:

Were staff members able to identify the steps to take during a Tornado Warning?   
Yes No  
Comments:

Did staff members know the appropriate emergency number for your location?  
Yes No  
Comments:

Were staff members able to identify safe rooms in the area?  
Yes No  
Where are the safe areas on your unit or in your department?

Please document names of staff members who participated in the February mini-drill to be entered in drawing for prizes (use back-side if necessary):

Additional Comments: