

2.25 Emergency and Inclement Weather Closing

Inclement Weather, Power Outage or Other Emergency Policy

In the case of inclement weather, power outage, or other emergency, with the exception of tornados (see below), the Director is authorized to close the Library when conditions are hazardous for patrons and/or staff or prevent the safe use of the facility. The Director is authorized to close the Library early when such conditions develop, or are forecasted by The National Weather Service to develop, during business hours and is further authorized to delay the morning opening time until such conditions have abated.

Notice of Closing

If the Library is closed by the Director for any reason per this policy, a notice will be posted on the front door of the Library, if feasible. Additionally, the Director will publicize the Library closing on local radio and television stations, as well as on the Library website and telephone system as conditions allow, including, but not limited to, WWMT (Channel 3) and social media.

Tornado Policy

Tornado Watch

Business will proceed as usual

Tornado Warning

Operations of the Library will cease, although Patrons in the building will be directed to remain in the Library's lower level, away from windows and stairwells, unless they elect to leave or until an all-clear has been issued. Unattended minors will be expected to remain in the Library's lower level until a parent or guardian picks them up or until the all-clear is issued. Library staff will attempt to contact parents or guardians of the minors, as able.

The suggested shelter area for tornado warning was discussed and advised by a member of the Richland Fire Department.