

The University of Alabama
Fleet Management Severe Weather Plan
March 15, 2021

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Plan Fundamentals

Purpose:

- A) The Fleet Management Severe Weather Plan provides general guidance, organizational structure and specific direction on preparedness and response for severe weather emergencies to help protect University assets (vehicles). It is critical for departments that are authorized to possess a vehicle to be prepared to respond to potential weather events to protect University assets in a timely manner. This plan also provides basic procedures, resources and guidance in preventing, preparing and responding to severe weather events.

Scope:

- A) The plan outlines resources and strategies to assist faculty and staff on The University of Alabama campus located in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Planning Assumptions:

- A) A severe weather event can happen at any time of year. Examples of severe weather elements: Hail, wind, rain, high water, lightning and tornadoes.
- B) Prior to these events, The University of Alabama will rely on the cooperation of internal departments to protect University assets.

Assignment of Responsibilities

Responsibility of departments assigned a vehicle:

- 1) Departments are expected to identify the parking deck or another appropriate location that will safely protect the vehicle, and provide safe entry/exit well before the severe weather event is announced.
- 2) Departments are required to know the following:
 - o Height, size and length of each of its assigned vehicle(s)
 - o How attachments affect the height, size and length of a vehicle, such as:
 - Ladder and ladder racks
 - Canoes
 - Bikes
 - Totes
- 3) Do not assume that all vehicles are the same.
- 4) Departments are encouraged to have a spotter to help assist with staging vehicles that will help avoid damage to people, vehicles and structures.
- 5) Respect any restrictions regarding access to parking decks and recommended staging locations.
- 6) Departments are responsible for removing attachments that restrict access into parking decks and staging locations, such as:
 - a. Ladders
 - b. Canoes
 - c. Bikes
 - d. Totes
- 7) Departments are responsible for any damages when entering parking decks and staging locations to vehicles and structures.

- 8) Departments are responsible for parking vehicles in a manner that will not obstruct access and parking for other vehicles.
- 9) Departments are responsible for securing all property in UA owned vehicles, no matter the location (on or off campus).

Concept of Operation

Introduction:

- A) The Fleet Management Severe Weather Plan is designed to incorporate all University-owned vehicles in the area of preparedness and responsibility of plan. This plan is flexible in that part, or all the plans, may be activated based on the specific emergency and the level of weather threat received by UA Emergency Management.

Objectives:

- A) The plan objectives are:
 - a. Suggest a reasonable and safe location of University assets (vehicles)
 - b. Protection of University physical assets (vehicles)
 - c. Education to faculty and staff of a reasonable location for UA vehicles
 - d. Ability to provide adequate time for faculty and staff to respond
 - e. Help develop a partnership with the department as it relates to protecting its assets (vehicles)

Plan Operation:

- A) Once Emergency Management informs the campus community of the possible risk of severe weather, it is the responsibility of the department authorized to possess a vehicle to take action before the severe weather event. Example of possible email communication from Emergency Management of Severe Weather:







*(OEM Weather Alert: There is a **Moderate** risk of severe weather for Tuscaloosa during the afternoon and evening on Sunday. The NWS said a tornado watch is likely. Timing will become more specific later in the week.)*

Fleet Services will send a notification reminding responsible parties of proper vehicle protection procedures immediately following a communication notification similar to the one above from Emergency Management.

Past false alarm weather events do not determine what is unknown for future severe weather events. Weather conditions are subject to change. Departments that have been assigned or operate vehicles should review their weather plans, stay alert to changing conditions and take the necessary steps to protect themselves and University property such as vehicles.

Severe Weather Ratings:

- a. No label or no severe weather expected
- b. 1. Marginal Risk
- c. 2. Slight Risk
- d. 3. Enhanced Risk
- e. 4. Moderate Risk
- f. 5. High Risk

THUNDERSTORMS (no label)	1 - MARGINAL (MRGL)	2 - SLIGHT (SLGT)	3 - ENHANCED (ENH)	4 - MODERATE (MDT)	5 - HIGH (HIGH)
No severe* thunderstorms expected	Isolated severe thunderstorms possible	Scattered severe storms possible	Numerous severe storms possible	Widespread severe storms likely	Widespread severe storms expected
Lightning/flooding threats exist with all thunderstorms	Limited in duration and/or coverage and/or intensity	Short-lived and/or not widespread, isolated intense storms possible	More persistent and/or widespread, a few intense	Long-lived, widespread and intense	Long-lived, very widespread and particularly intense
					

* NWS defines a severe thunderstorm as measured wind gusts to at least 58 mph, and/or hail to at least one inch in diameter, and/or a tornado. All thunderstorm categories imply lightning and the potential for flooding. Categories are also tied to the probability of a severe weather event within 25 miles of your location.

Department Required Action:

- A) During Marginal, Slight or Enhanced Risks, UA departments may stage their UA vehicles in a designated area to protect vehicles, such as a parking deck.
- B) During Moderate and High Risks, The Office of Risk Management and Fleet Management ***strongly*** recommend that all departments park their vehicles inside a covered area, such as a parking deck.
 - a. The decision to protect or not to protect will be made by the department in which the vehicle is assigned. **All damages will be the responsibility of the department assigned to the vehicle regardless of its decision.**

Types of Vehicles:

- A) There are many different types of vehicles. Departments are responsible for knowing the types, maximum height of their assigned vehicle, and how attachments increase the height and width of a vehicle.
- B) Types of Vehicles on The University of Alabama campus:
 - a. Sedans
 - b. SUV's
 - c. Trucks
 - d. Vans
 - e. Buses
 - f. Large Trucks (such as box trucks, garbage trucks, etc.)
 - g. Motorcycles and Carts

Staging Locations:

State vehicles are authorized to use parking decks on The University of Alabama campus. The spaces available located inside parking decks are on a first-come basis as many of our students, employees and guests use our parking decks. For planning purposes, take note of the below parking decks and especially the maximum height of each parking deck.

- Most Sedans and SUV’s can gain access to all parking decks.
- Large Trucks, Buses, Carts and Motorcycles: Departments are responsible for securing a safe location based on the size of these units.

Parking Deck:

A) Tutwiler Deck

a. All Levels	Maximum Height	7’
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B) Capstone Deck

a. Level 1	Not to Be Used “BUSES ONLY” “SPECIAL DOOR ONLY”	
b. Level 2	Maximum Height	7’
c. Level 3	Maximum Height	7”
d. Level 4	Maximum Height	7’

C) Presidential II Garage

a. All Levels	Maximum Height	7’8”
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- **Please note the different maximum heights at each parking deck and do not assume all parking deck heights are the same. Each department is responsible for safe entry in and out of all parking decks.**

Additional Guidance on Locations:

Contact:

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Parking Deck Map

