

MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY

Tornado Scenario

Statewide Discussion-Based Tabletop Exercise

Exercise Objectives

- Help schools to evaluate the effectiveness in responding to and recovering from a significant incident.
- Internally identify capabilities and gaps in order to improve plans.
- Understand resource and assistance needs in non-public schools, and the ability of the state and other stakeholders to provide support.

Exercise Ground Rules

- Short discussion after both module among local groups.
- No “right” answers - discuss all options.
- Test the plan(s).
- Accept the artificialities of the scenario.
- Make notes on your responses and be prepared to brief-out to the larger group.
- This is a self evaluation opportunity for the school.

Start Exercise



Scenario Introduction: Tornado Watch

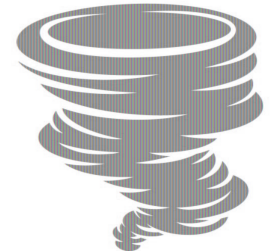
- Today is Thursday, September 26th. It is a half-day with an early dismissal (12:30 p.m.). Staff have afternoon onsite professional development.
- Heavy rain and thunderstorms have been blanketing the area all morning.
- **11:00 am:** The National Weather Service and local weather stations issue a tornado watch for the region.

TORNADO WATCH

BE READY
TO MOVE TO A
SAFE PLACE.

CONDITIONS ARE
FAVORABLE FOR
TORNADOES TO
OCCUR.

**KNOW THE
DIFFERENCE**



BE PREPARED

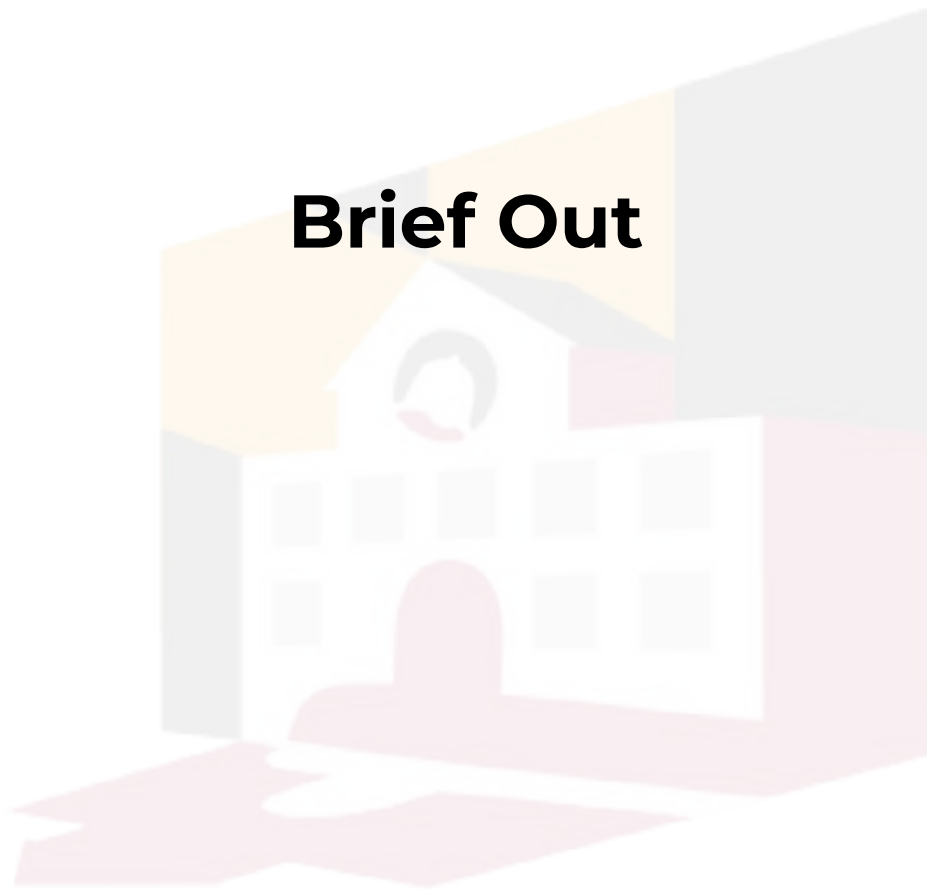
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Brief Out

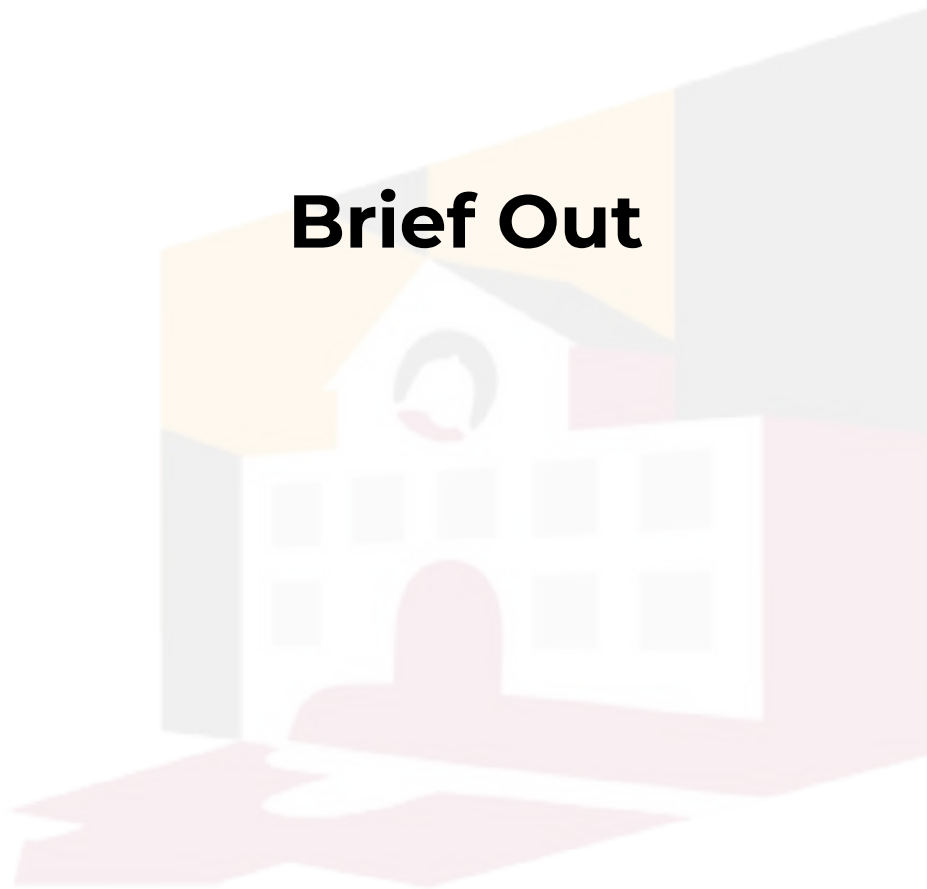


Scenario Update: Tornado Warning

- **11:45 am:** The National Weather Service and local weather stations have upgraded their weather forecast and have now issued a tornado warning until 12:20 pm. The school immediately takes action to ensure student safety.
- **11:50 am:** The school begins to receive calls from concerned parents on what they should do. Some parents are enroute to the school or already in the parking lot. Two buses are also onsite for the early dismissal.



Brief Out



Scenario Update: Tornado Warning

- **12:05 pm:** Staff report a loud train noise passing. Students remain in a secure location while it is confirmed the storm has passed. No students or staff are injured.
- **12:15 pm:** Staff confirm the school building is secure, but a satellite location (portable, gym, or wing of the building) has sustained damage to the roof.
- **12:30 pm:** Students are safely dismissed for the day. Some students' transportation is late due to debris in the roads.
- **1:30 pm:** It is confirmed that the damaged location will require repair.



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See it. Hear it. **REPORT IT!**



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