

# After-Action Report

December 2021 Tornadoes

December 17, 2021

## Summary

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On December 10, 2021, tornadoes tore through Northeast Arkansas, affecting the towns of Trumann, Monette, Leachville, and Southeast Jonesboro. Even though the campus of A-State University was not directly affected by tornado damage, many of our employees were affected, and our university's first responders responded to the aftermath of the tornadoes.

Due to lessons learned from the Jonesboro tornado that occurred in April of 2020, all personnel and students were cautious and expected the worst to happen. Because of this our tornado shelter, the Reng Student Union, had the best turn-out that we had ever experienced. Students even brought their pets into the facility and this did not cause any problems.

## Participation

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All A-State Alerts sent out that evening were timely and effective. All systems worked as they should and all on-campus community members had the appropriate awareness and information available to plan and protect themselves from the threat. It was also reported that the A-State Alerts were received as far as the state of Florida. A-State will be utilizing the Valcom alert system after February 4, 2022.

## Improvements for the Future

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Flooding on campus can be greatly mitigated by removing debris from storm drains. An alarming amount of storm drains on campus are clogged with debris, which often leads to flooding in those areas. The A-State Department of Safety/Emergency Management (DSEM) will work closely with Facilities Management to ensure that debris is removed from storm drains. Special attention will be given to the most flood-prone areas: Kays Hall, the parking lot on Aggie road (east of Marion Berry), the Library parking lot, and Aggie road opposite of the Welcome Center.

The night the tornado occurred, KASU was broadcasting weather alerts from both the National Weather Service (NWS) out of Memphis and Little Rock. The broadcasting of both of the alerts caused overlap and confusion. When the storm was headed toward A-State, the first warning from KASU seemed to conflict with the EAS alert. The DSEM and A-State's Chief Communications Officer (CCO) will work closely with KASU to correct this error.

Now that the A-State Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) has been reactivated it can be utilized for all on-campus emergencies and disasters. The DSEM will work closely with the College of Nursing to reactivate the A-State Medical Team so that the team can deploy during on-campus medical emergencies and disasters in the future.

The Safety Office welcomes recommendations for improvement from the campus community. Please email [cokennedy@astate.edu](mailto:cokennedy@astate.edu) with any questions, concerns, or suggestions.