



Parkland

Information and stories for Parkland employees  
April 8 – April 14, 2024

# Safety tips for severe weather season



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# Parkland officials offer tips for severe weather season

## *Be prepared by having a plan, practicing it*

Spring in Texas means pollen counts are up, temperatures are climbing and severe weather can strike with just a moment's notice. This severe weather also includes an increased risk of wind, hail and even tornadoes. Being prepared, say Parkland Disaster Management officials, means having a plan but more importantly, practicing that plan.

"You never know when or where a severe storm is going to pop up," said Chris Noah, MS, CHSP, cABCF, Director of Disaster Management and Business Continuity. "It could happen when you're at work, school or shopping at the mall. That's why it's important to know what you're going to do when damaging wind, hail or tornadoes are in the vicinity."

For starters, Chris says, don't rely just on sirens to receive weather warnings, as they are primarily used for those who are outdoors and may not be loud enough to awaken you in the middle of the night. Therefore it's important to have weather alerts from the National Weather Service (NWS) or local media programmed into your cell phone, tablet and home phone. He also recommends having a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio for your home and office. Those warnings may provide you with the precious few minutes necessary to seek shelter and possibly save your life.

"Those of us who were born and raised in Texas are keenly aware of the dangerous weather that can take place any time of the year," Chris said. "The majority of people will go their entire lives and never fall victim to Mother Nature's wrath, but everyone needs to heed the warnings and not become complacent just because the storm is 100 miles away. Storms can turn in an instant and quickly be barreling down on you."

When you are at Parkland, your response varies based on what type of building you are in, be it the main hospital, an outpatient clinic or office location. For more details, please refer to [Annex EE: Weather Hazards](#) in Parkland's Emergency Operations Plan. Protective actions are listed beginning on page three.

When away from work. The safest place to be, other than a storm shelter, is on the lowest floor of the building in an interior room like a closet, hallway or bathroom. Stay low to the ground and cover yourself with blankets, pillows and/or mattresses. If a tornado approaches and you live in a mobile home or are in your car, abandon it for a more substantial shelter. If nothing is available, lie flat in a nearby ditch covering your head and neck.

Once the storm passes, hazardous conditions such as downed powerlines and trees may make travel virtually impossible and can disrupt cellular service. That's why families should have a predetermined meeting place and practice getting to them via several different routes. And you should know what to do if you're at home, at work or school, outdoors or in a car.

"In times like these, panic can set in quickly," Chris said. "But if you've prepared, practiced and everyone, young and old, knows what they're to do during a potentially destructive storm, your chance of surviving will increase."



## Total Solar Eclipse viewing event April 8

As you may have heard, a solar eclipse will take place on Monday, April 8. To allow employees to experience this rare moment, Parkland's Workforce Experience team will host a viewing event from 1:15 to 2:15 p.m. on April 8 in the Moody Wellness Garden. The eclipse's moment of totality – the brief period when the moon is completely blocking the sun – will take place during this time.

Protective glasses will be available to employees on first come, first served basis. In order to maintain the highest level of quality care and safety for our patients, please limit your viewing of the eclipse to your breaks and meal times. Find more information about eclipse viewing safety [in this article](#).



## ▼ Lasting Impressions: Ping Rodriguez



Each week, “Lasting Impressions” features a Parkland employee who does exceptional work and provides excellent customer service. This week’s “Lasting Impressions” features Ping Rodriguez, Senior Registered Nurse – Medicine/Surgery, 7 Plastic Surgery.

*“Ping is a nurse on a unit that supports eight different service lines and has a high number of admissions and discharges. She has been a nurse at Parkland for less than two years and personifies nursing excellence. She can recognize when her peers need her help and makes them feel comfortable asking for it. Ping has been recognized by her peers for being compassionate with new staff and is an advocate for patients and keeps them safe by being open to teaching and reviewing procedures. A new nurse had a patient with a heparin drip. Ping went through each step, starting with two-patient identification, scanning the heparin bag, making sure the patient had the correct lab order, checking the pump and ensuring the correct weight was programmed. She creates a safe atmosphere where anyone can ask questions and doesn’t make them feel demeaned. She always helps family members and visitors and includes them in the plan of care for the patient.”*



Want to nominate an employee who goes above and beyond? Tell us what makes them so fantastic by emailing [Employees@phhs.org](mailto:Employees@phhs.org) or calling ext. 28048.

## Apply for Education at Work 2.0 by April 30

Have you been putting off going to school until the right opportunity? Do you hope to earn or finish an associate degree? Would you like to have your tuition and books covered while attending college?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, the Education at Work 2.0 (EAW 2.0) program may be just what you are looking for. This program offers Parkland employees with at least one year of service and no written warnings an opportunity to obtain an associate degree at no cost. If you are selected to be part of the next cohort, you will have the opportunity to attend the Dallas College of your choice (formerly Dallas County Community College) while maintaining your part time or full-time status at Parkland.

The application period for this program is open now until Tuesday, April 30. For more information or to apply, visit the program’s [SharePoint page](#).

## Influenza season ends April 8

The percent positivity for flu testing for Dallas County has shown a downward trend to be on track for less than 10% for two consecutive weeks. All influenza-related policies and protocols can be implemented accordingly to end the flu season effective Monday, April 8.



## ◀ DCHD PD offers civilian active shooter response training

The Dallas County Hospital District Police Department is offering in-person active shooter response training available to all Parkland team members. The trainings, led by Officer Darlene Griffin, Crime Prevention Coordinator, will take place on Tuesday, April 9, from 8 – 9:15 a.m., 3 – 4:15 p.m. and 6 – 7:15 p.m., in the Moody Outpatient Center 5th floor Classroom H (MOC 05-454H).

Seating is limited to 40 attendees per session, so registration is required. You can register, either individually or as a group, by emailing [CrimePrevention@phhs.org](mailto:CrimePrevention@phhs.org) the date and time of session you wish to attend.

## ▶ Learn more about Records and Information Management

To learn more about the importance of the Parkland Records and Information Management (RIM) program, join the RIM team for two upcoming events. These events will feature games, prizes (“RIM branded items”), and trivia to challenge your knowledge about the multitude of services offered by the RIM department, as well as provide valuable information to help you effectively manage Parkland’s records.

- **11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, April 12:** Empire Central Building (8435 N. Stemmons Fwy.), White Rock Conference Room, Legal Affairs, Suite 1020
- **10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, April 19:** Private Dining Room (in the back of the Parkland cafeteria)

**Activities will include the opportunity to:**

- Participate in games such as “pick a card” and “corn hole toss”
- Visit the educational table
- Take a guess at how many jellybeans are in the jar for a chance to win the grand prize

Contact the RIM department at [PHHS.RIM@phhs.org](mailto:PHHS.RIM@phhs.org) to learn more.

## Watch UT Southwestern Ethics Grand Rounds online

You are invited to join the next UT Southwestern Ethics Grand Rounds from noon – 1 p.m. on Tuesday, April 9. Robert A. Berenson, MD, who is Institute Fellow in the Health Policy Center at the Urban Institute, will present “Profit Over Professionalism: The Case of the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule.” To participate in this webinar please register using [this link](#). Upon registration, you will get the Zoom event ID and link to join the webinar.

## ▶ Global Diabetes hosts 10-year anniversary event May 8

Join Parkland’s Global Diabetes Program as they celebrate their 10th anniversary at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 8, in MacGregor W. Day Auditorium (1st floor, Moody Outpatient Center). All Parkland and UT Southwestern team members are welcome to stop by and enjoy the snacks and guest speakers at this event.

## Onward & Upward

**Advanced Practice Provider Surgery Service Line III:** Ramita Maharjan to APP – Orientation

**Burn ICU:** Clare Vega to Wound Care Technician

**Care Management:** Shunna Baker to Social Worker (LCSW)

**Contracts:** Andrea Henley to Contract Negotiator I

**Engineering Services:** Frederick Datcher to Senior Manager, Facilities

**Global Cancer Program:** Christian Lara to Referral and Care Coordinator; Gincy Mathai to Nurse Navigator

**Labor & Delivery:** Andrea Acosta to Associate Manager, Nursing; Jennifer Nguyen to Unit Technician

**Material Services:** Tokina Harvey and Darrell Johnson to Senior Supply Chain Logistics Technician

**Oncology Services Clinic:** Stephanie Mendez to Senior Medical Practice Assistant

**Supplier Diversity:** Adriana Hinojosa to Manager, Supplier Diversity

## Retirements

- Jawahira Ahmed, Unit Technician, Mother/Baby A
- Paula Alcorn, Senior Radiologic Technologist, Radiology Diagnostic
- Janice Lankford, Director of Advanced Practice, WISH Administration



Care. Compassion. Community.

*Parkland Now* is published by the Corporate Communications department at Parkland Health.

Please note the submission deadline for each issue of *Parkland Now* is by the end of day each Monday.

To publicize your news in *Parkland Now*, please send all submissions to [Employees@phhs.org](mailto:Employees@phhs.org) or call ext. 28048.