



The University of Texas at Austin Emergency Management

DECISION PROCESS FOR A DELAY, CLOSURE, OR EARLY RELEASE OF CAMPUS DURING A WEATHER EVENT

The safety of students, faculty, and staff is the University's top priority. Any decision that disrupts the normal operations of the campus seriously impacts the teaching and research mission of the University. Because of this, a process has been developed that aims to minimize the negative impacts, while ensuring the highest safety possible of the UT community.

HOW DOES THE DECISION PROCESS BEGIN?

The decision to Delay, Close, or an Early Release of campus during a weather event begins as soon as the event is forecasted. The Big 5 call convenes for information gathering and is scheduled with top administrators from the following organizations:

- The University of Texas at Austin
- City of Austin
- Travis County and Travis County Sheriff
- Austin Community College
- Austin Independent School District

Weather can often be unpredictable but forecast information is obtained from the best meteorological sources available. A projection is made about the possible accumulation of sleet, snow, or ice on area roads and highways. Special consideration is given to elevated or otherwise hazardous routes. A determination is made as to whether travel can be made safe by treating roadways with salt or sand or whether certain routes will require closure due to conditions. Each organization carefully weighs the impact that the road conditions will have on their ability to carry out normal operations.

WHAT ARE THE DECISIONS THAT COULD BE MADE?

Delayed Opening

A delayed opening is when weather conditions exist that will be unsafe during the early hours when employees and students need to travel to campus, but that conditions are projected to improve later in the day.

Closure

A closure is when weather conditions exist that will be unsafe when employees and students need to travel to campus and are unlikely to improve throughout the day.

Early Release

An early release is when weather conditions are likely to deteriorate later in the day impacting the safe travel of employees and students away from campus.

WHO MAKES THE DECISION?

The president of The University of Texas at Austin makes all final decisions, based on recommendations from the University representatives participating in the weather closure conference calls.

HOW WILL I BE NOTIFIED?

- ✓ UT Austin Safety Alert Text Message
- ✓ Campus Safety Email
- ✓ University Homepage
www.utexas.edu
- ✓ Emergency Page
www.utexas.edu/emergency
- ✓ Social Media
@UTAustin OEM (X)
UTAustinOEM (Facebook)
- ✓ Local news media is also notified

RESOURCES

www.utexas.edu/emergency
Closures, delayed openings, or early releases caused by any weather incident will be announced on UT Austin's Emergency Information Page.

www.weather.utexas.edu
Weather updates by UT Austin's Incident Meteorologist including radar and forecasts



UT READY



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