2011 was a record year for disaster in the United States. There are nearly 1,000 weather-related fatalities, including 550 resulting from tornadoes, the most since 1936 and the fourth highest number of tornado fatalities since records have been kept. Illinois experienced a variety of weather related events, including two tornado outbreaks, a severe wind and hail event, a flash flood/severe weather event, river flooding and a blizzard.

While we can’t prevent severe weather, there are steps you can take to stay safe when tornadoes, severe storms and flooding threaten. Here are a few tips you can use to better protect yourself and your family during severe weather:

Get a NOAA weather radio for your home. The National Weather Service broadcasts weather information 24 hours a day, including watches, warnings and advisories.

Understand the difference between a watch and a warning:

Watch means severe weather (tornado, thunderstorm, flooding) is possible in your area. Stay alert for the latest weather information. Be prepared to take shelter.

Warning means severe weather will be approaching or is occurring. Seek shelter immediately.
Chief’s Commendation

Sgt. Derek Ferguson

Sergeant Derek Ferguson was recently recognized by the Chief of University Police for designing and implementing the University Police Department’s online training resource through D2L.

University Police Officers and staff members can now review policies, general orders and other relevant information. Upon reviewing a specific topic, they then must take an online exam to show proficiency in the knowledge recently acquired.

Such implementation will ensure a more professional law enforcement agency and assist in our ongoing process to become Illinois’s first private University Police Department to become an accredited law enforcement agency.

Sgt. Ferguson also created an electronic device registry through the University Police Webpage, where anyone can register the electronic device to aid University Police in the event that such device is lost or stolen.

Sgt. Sharon Rizzi

Sharon is one of the founding members of the University Police Department. Sharon supervises one of our night shifts. Sharon has proudly served Benedictine University for (7) years.

Sharon likes softball and riding her Harley Davidson motorcycle when the weather permits. Sharon holds a Bachelors of Criminal Justice degree.

Do you “Remember” me?

Law Enforcement Accreditation

Benedictine University Police have begun the process to become the first private university police agency to become recognized by the State of Illinois as an accredited law enforcement agency.

Although accreditation is not required by law to operate as a law enforcement agency, this would be another “first” for Benedictine University.