

## **Aram Public Library Policy 5.2 Inclement Weather Policy**

**Adopted April 14, 2014**

At times when the weather becomes hazardous to the health and safety of the public and/or library staff, the library will close or take safety precautions.

### **Library Closures Due to Inclement Weather**

The decision to close the library due to inclement weather is left in the hands of the library director or his or her chosen substitute. Weather related closures of local schools are a very good indication of safety concerns, and the majority of those closures will be accordance with the library's actions, nevertheless, there are times when library closures may deviate from school closings. These include when

- Inclement weather occurs and the schools are not open, such as on weekends or during school holidays.
- School closures reflect concern for the safety of bussed students, such as from snow-covered rural roads, which is not an issue for the library.

### **Library Safety Measures Due to Inclement Weather**

There may be times that the weather becomes dangerous while the library is open. This may require that the library close so staff and public alike can get home safely. Closures are at the discretion of the library director, or his or her chosen substitute. Other situations may require the library take safety measures to protect staff and the public. This is especially true in the spring, summer and autumn when thunderstorms and tornados are possible.

- In the event of a Severe Thunderstorm Warning issued by the National Weather Service the library will let patrons know of the impending weather. When a Tornado Watch is issued, library staff will inform patrons of the possibility of a tornado developing.
- In the event of a Tornado Warning, library staff will require that the public make a decision to either take cover in the designated areas of the library or leave the library. Library staff will strongly encourage the public to remain at the library to take cover in the designated safety areas for their safety, but staff cannot require that they remain in the library. For the safety of staff and public alike, public areas of the library must be cleared. Once in the designated safety areas, staff and patrons will stay in those areas until the Tornado Warning expires. Flashlights and a weather radio to monitor the situation will be taken to the designated safety areas.

Earlier version adopted August 2009.

Present version adopted April 14, 2014.