

HURRICANE SEASON RUNS FROM JUNE 1 THROUGH NOVEMBER 30

ARE YOU PREPARED?

GET A KIT. MAKE A PLAN. BE INFORMED.



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
**HURRICANE
GUIDE**

IMPORTANT SOURCES OF INFORMATION



All official information regarding campus closings, class cancellation, evacuation, and re-population will be communicated through USF email and:

USF Tampa

www.usf.edu
(800) 992-4231

USF Sarasota-Manatee

www.sarasotamanatee.usf.edu
(941) 359-4444

USF St. Pete

www.stpetersburg.usf.edu
(727) 873-4636

USF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The USF Department of Emergency Management website has information regarding hurricane preparedness and other campus safety initiatives.

www.usf.edu/em
(813) 974-0870

USF Emergency Information Lines
USF Tampa: (800) 922-4231
USFSM: (941) 359-4444
USFSP: (727) 873-4636

NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER

The National Hurricane Center (NHC) is the official source for predictions, advisories, warnings, satellite images, and analysis of hazardous tropical weather.

www.nhc.noaa.gov
X (formerly Twitter): @NHC_Atlantic

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

The “Ready” website has information to help you prepare for disasters. This includes putting together an emergency plan and emergency supply kit.

www.ready.gov

FLORIDA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

FDEM provides pre- and post-event information and planning tools on their websites.

www.floridadisaster.org

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PARTNERS

Local Emergency Management departments provide evacuation route directions, shelter locations, and other information specific to your area.

Hillsborough County Emergency Management

www.hillsboroughcounty.org/emergency
(813) 236-3800

Pinellas County Emergency Management

www.pinellascounty.org/emergency
(727) 464-3800

Manatee County Emergency Management

www.mymanatee.org/emergency
(941) 749-3500

Sarasota County Emergency Management

www.scgov.net
(941) 861-5000

Monroe County Emergency Management

www.monroecountyem.com
(800) 955-5504



AlertUSF is the Emergency Notification System for USF. It allows you to receive emergency updates via multiple sources. All official USF emergency notifications are sent out through AlertUSF. Faculty, staff, and students are strongly urged to sign up for AlertUSF text alerts.

tinyurl.com/AlertUSF

Hurricane season officially begins on **June 1** and runs through **November 30**

What is a hurricane?

Hurricanes are large, spiraling tropical cyclones that can pack wind speeds of over 160 mph and unleash more than 2.4 trillion gallons of rain per day. 40% of the hurricanes that occur in the United States hit Florida, so it is critical to be alert and prepared. Remember, tropical storms and hurricanes can intensify and change direction within hours.

The Tampa Bay region is vulnerable!

Each year, the National Hurricane Center releases a Hurricane Season prediction. Regardless of the number of expected storms, the most important thing to remember is that it takes just one storm to cause damage and disruption. Tampa consistently ranks as one of the top cities most overdue for a direct hit from a major hurricane and one of the most vulnerable if one should strike. Even indirect hurricane impact can leave areas without power for an extended period of time and cause serious damage.

Individual preparedness is critical.

Your individual preparedness actions greatly contribute to USF's ability to prepare, respond to, and recover from any storm - minor or major. The information contained in this guide and on the USF Emergency Management website (usf.edu/em) was developed to help you prepare. Additional hurricane preparedness information is available from the FEMA website at www.ready.gov/hurricanes.

This guide can serve as your "ready reference" for the specific activities that are likely to occur should a tropical storm or hurricane threaten any of the USF campus locations.

Hurricane season spans from June 1 to November 30, with August to October being the most active months. During these months it is important to be prepared! Get and maintain a disaster supply kit, have a plan in place, keep track of the weather, and be informed.

BE PREPARED.

GET A KIT.



- Maintain a Disaster Supply Kit year round
- Include enough supplies to sustain you for at least 7 days
- Periodically check and replenish the kit contents
- Visit www.ready.gov/kit for more information

MAKE A PLAN.



- Prepare your emergency plan prior to hurricane season
- Communicate your plan with friends and family
- Visit www.floridadisaster.org to prepare your emergency plan

BE INFORMED.



- Register for AlertUSF text alerts to receive emergency notifications (tinyurl.com/AlertUSF)
- Check your institution's main website for up-to-date information
- Regularly check weather.gov for current tropical cyclone activity
- Visit usf.edu/em for more information on emergency preparedness information

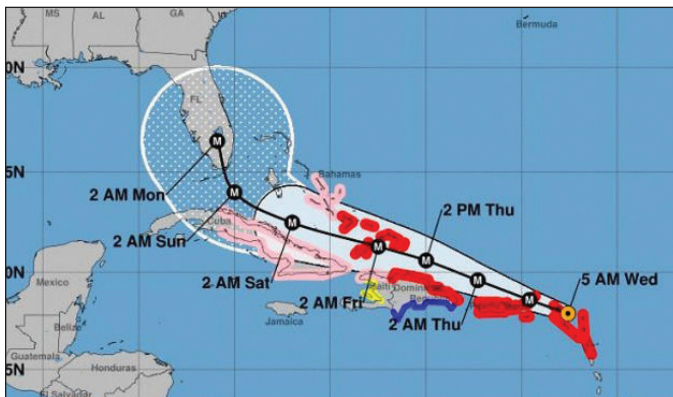
When Tropical Storms and Hurricanes Threaten

When facing a tropical storm or hurricane, you will have important decisions to make. This guide provides information and resources that can assist you with the necessary planning and preparedness.

The “Forecast Cone”

The forecast cone is a projected path of where the hurricane’s center will pass within five days. It is important to remember that the effects of a tropical cyclone can be experienced well away from the center of the storm and well outside of the forecast cone. The actual path of the storm’s center does not always stay within the cone.

The cone contains the probable path of the storm center but does not show the size of the storm. The center of a tropical cyclone historically moves out of the cone about a third of the time. Hazardous conditions can occur outside of the cone.



Example of a storm path projection showing the “Forecast Cone”.

If a USF campus location lies within or near the National Hurricane Center’s (NHC) Five-Day (120-hour) Forecast Cone, USF will monitor reports by the NHC and National Weather Service regarding the storm’s characteristics (size, intensity, speed, and projected place of landfall) and the projected impact on our area. These reports and the actions taken by local government will guide the USF in its decision to cancel classes, close campuses, or evacuate campuses.



If you reside within the forecast cone, this is the ideal time to review your hurricane plan and to ensure that all needed supplies are in your Disaster Supply Kit.

Hurricane Wind Scale

The **Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale** is a 1 to 5 rating based on a hurricane’s sustained wind speed. This scale estimates potential property damage.

| Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Wind: 74 - 95 MPH Damage: Some |
| 2 | Wind: 96-110 MPH Damage: Extensive |
| 3 | Wind: 111-129 MPH Damage: Devastating |
| 4 | Wind: 130-156 MPH Damage: Catastrophic |
| 5 | Wind: > 156 MPH Damage: Catastrophic |

Hurricanes reaching Category 3 and higher are considered major hurricanes because of their potential for significant loss of life and damage. However, Category 1 and 2 storms are still dangerous and require protective measures.

“Watch” vs. “Warning”

When tropical storms or hurricanes threaten an area, “watches” or “warnings” may be issued depending on the projected path of the storm. Hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force. Watches and Warnings are issued in advance of onset of tropical storm force winds (39 MPH).

| “Watch” | “Warning” |
|--|---|
| Tropical-storm or hurricane conditions are possible within the specified area. | Tropical-storm or hurricane conditions are expected within the specified area. |
| Watches are issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm force winds. | Warnings are issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm force winds. |

Hurricane Associated Hazards

Many people associate extreme winds and storm surge with hurricanes, but these tropical systems can also produce a variety of other hazards.

Class Cancellations & Campus Closures/Evacuations



Communications regarding class cancellations and campus closures, evacuations, and re-openings will be posted on the main USF websites and sent to students and employees via email. It is important to monitor official USF communications during emergencies as conditions can change rapidly. Continue to check your USF e-mail and the USF website for information.

USF Tampa campus

www.usf.edu

USF St. Petersburg campus

www.stpetersburg.usf.edu

USF Sarasota-Manatee campus

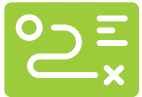
www.sarasotamanatee.usf.edu

A recorded message may be available from the **USF Emergency Information Line:**

- USF: (800) 992-4231
- USFSM: (941) 359-4444
- USFSP: (727) 873-4636

Should it be necessary to evacuate a campus, faculty members will attempt to provide students with assignments and, if possible, remain in touch with students by e-mail. Prior to any evacuation, resident students will meet with their Resident Advisors to review procedures.

Make a Plan



You should begin making general evacuation plans now. Waiting for the storm to arrive is too late. As the storm nears, communicate your evacuation plan to family, friends, or coworkers so someone knows where you are. If you change your plan, make sure to communicate the change. Students should have conversations with their families to review their hurricane plans and discuss where they will go in the event the campus is evacuated.

Visit www.FLGetAPlan.com for assistance developing an emergency plan.

STORM SURGE

Storm surge is an abnormal rise in sea level caused by strong winds and low atmospheric pressure during a storm, typically a hurricane or tropical cyclone. This surge can lead to severe coastal flooding, causing significant damage to property and posing a serious threat to life and safety in affected areas.

TORNADOES

Tornadoes commonly occur along the right-front quadrant (relative to the storm's direction and rotation) of a hurricane. Hurricane produced tornadoes can occur up to 200 miles from the hurricane eye and may spawn days before and after landfall.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Storm surge and battering winds can decimate infrastructure, buildings, and industrial centers creating a cesspool of hazardous materials. Contaminated water supplies may carry disease and cause severe sickness if ingested. Until authorities ensure potable water systems are safe, only consume bottled water from reliable sources.

FLOODING

While storm surge is the deadliest hazard associated with hurricanes, in the last 40 years the deaths caused by hurricane produced flooding have increased. Weak, slow moving hurricanes can produce significant rainfall resulting in severe inland flooding.

POST-STORM DEBRIS

The debris generated by a hurricane can include vegetation, building materials, glass, vehicles, and a variety of toxic substances. It is important to be aware of post-storm hazards and to consider your safety and the safety of others. Stay clear of downed power lines, try to avoid wading in flood waters (definitely don't ingest flood water), keep an eye out for snakes and other wildlife, and wear appropriate clothing.

Disaster Supply Kit



It is important to maintain a Disaster Supply Kit year round with enough supplies to last you for 7 days. Disaster Supply Kits should include, but not be limited to:

- Water, one gallon per person per day
- Non-perishable food
- Can opener
- Battery-powered or hand crank AM/FM radio
- NOAA Weather Radio with extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First Aid Kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Personal hygiene items
- Blanket
- Extra clothes and comfortable walking shoes
- Medications
- Cash

Visit [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) for more information on putting together a Disaster Supply Kit.



Pets - Don't leave your pets behind!

Prepare a safe location for your animals.

This may be with you, with a friend, in a kennel in a non-evacuation zone, or in a pet-friendly shelter. Pet friendly shelters will only accept dogs and cats, up-to-date vaccinations and registration are required. Visit your county's Emergency Management website (see the list in the front of this guide) for more information.

Pet Disaster Supplies:

- Proper ID Collar
- Vaccination Paperwork
- Cage and Leash
- Ample food and water
- Any necessary medication

Residence Evacuation Preparations



Take your most important belongings, valuables, and personal documents with you. Students should remember to take course materials with them.

If evacuating, completely empty and unplug your refrigerator, and wrap towels around the base to absorb water as it defrosts. If left unopened, your refrigerator can keep food chilled for about 4 hours. However, food is likely to spoil once refrigerators are unplugged or power is lost. If you live in a residence hall, know what your family's homeowner's policy covers in your residence hall room. Homeowner's insurance does not normally cover flood damage, consider adding flood insurance. Renter's insurance may or may not cover possessions in your residence hall room. Verify your policy at the start of the hurricane season and, if possible, obtain a statement in writing that your personal belongings are covered by your policy.

Unplug all power cords before leaving. Close and lock your windows tightly (do not tape them). Remove your trash. Lock your door. Remember to move items that may be damaged by water off the floor and cover electronic items with plastic. See your Residence Hall Advisor and complete an evacuation checklist to be sure you have done your best.

Transportation



As a storm approaches, fill your gas tank and prepare your vehicle for travel. Gas supplies may be hard to find during an evacuation and prices may increase due to high demand. Take your vehicle with you if possible. If you leave your vehicle on campus, move it to designated locations within garages. A valid USF parking permit will still be required to remain parked on campus. Review your auto insurance policy and if possible obtain a statement in writing that your vehicle will be covered from hurricane related damages.

Regional transportation agencies provide emergency evacuation services. After determining your evacuation zone find the nearest emergency evacuation route. There will be a high demand for fuel after the storm passes the area. If you are returning to the campus or the local community, anticipate long lines and fuel rationing. In some situations you may not be able to refuel your vehicle after you return.

Evacuation Alternatives



Students, faculty, and staff should plan two evacuation locations: (1) in county or within close driving distance of your residence and (2) a location outside of the storm's path.

Students may wish to develop budgets to share driving and hotel expenses or purchase a refundable plane ticket that can be used during hurricane season or for travel during holidays.

Hurricane Evacuation Shelters

Shelters should be treated as a refuge of last resort. Consider staying with friends and family in non-evacuation zones, or in hotels. Shelter space is limited and it will be difficult to safeguard your personal belongings.

Activation of hurricane evacuation shelters is at the discretion of county emergency management officials. Pre-registration is required for special needs shelters. Contact your county's emergency management agency to register. See the "Important Sources of Information" section on the first page of this guide.

If you will be staying in a shelter, you should take the following items:

- Medications
- Pillow, blanket, air mattress and/or cot
- Special dietary needs
- Passports and hard to replace documents
- Cash
- Identification
- Clothing for 5-7 days, socks, sturdy shoes
- Personal hygiene items
- Bottled water, snacks, and nutritious food
- Quiet games, reading material, music player and headphones, batteries
- Lightweight folding chair
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Keys to your car and residence
- Face masks
- Hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes
- Chargers for phone, computer, etc.
- First aid book and kit

Returning to Campus

The severity and intensity of the damage caused by the storm, along with the storm's location and impact on transportation corridors, will heavily contribute to decisions to reoccupy the campus. Valid and updated identification such as your driver's license, proof of residence, or a current utility bill may be required at checkpoints for evacuees to return to the area.

Only those who have been designated as essential personnel should return to campus during any recovery operation following a storm. A valid USF ID will be required for entry onto the campus during this period, non-essential personnel will not be allowed to enter.



All students, faculty, and staff who evacuated from the area should continually monitor the USF main websites for up-to-date information regarding campus operations.

The university will make all attempts to re-open and resume classes as quickly as possible, but must make every effort to provide a safe environment for the USF community to return to.

During extreme situations, those returning to the campus should anticipate that food, water, and other essential needs may be scarce. These individuals should bring necessary items to sustain themselves for several days.

BE PREPARED.

Visit [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) or [usf.edu/em](https://www.usf.edu/em) for more information.



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USF Department of Emergency Management
University of South Florida

4202 E. Fowler Avenue, OPM100
Tampa, Florida 33620

usf.edu/em
(813) 974-0870

The USF Department of Emergency Management coordinates activities across our campuses to protect, prevent, and mitigate against; respond to; and recover from disasters and emergencies affecting the university. The department welcomes the opportunity to present hurricane preparedness or other Emergency Management topics to your College, Department, or Student Organization. For more information, please contact us.

