Know the Difference

A HURRICANE WATCH, issued for your part of the coast, indicates the possibility that you could experience hurricane conditions within 36 hours. This watch should trigger your disaster plan, and protective measures should be initiated, especially those actions that require extra time such as packing your computer equipment, evacuating, etc.

A HURRICANE WARNING, issued for your part of the coast, indicates that sustained winds of at least 74 mph are expected within 24 hours or less. Once this warning has been issued, you should be in the process of completing protective actions and deciding the safest location to be during the storm.

Hurricane Basics

Hurricane hazards come in many forms: storm surge, high winds, tornadoes and flooding. This means it is important for you to have a plan that includes all of these hazards. The first and most important thing anyone should do when facing a hurricane threat is to use common sense.

Hurricanes are classified based on their wind speed with the Saffir Simpson Scale. This scale is commonly used to rate the damage potential of a hurricane.

The categories are:

• Tropical Storm—Winds 39–73 mph

• Category 1 Hurricane—winds 74–95 mph (64–82 kt)
  No real damage to buildings. Damage to unanchored mobile homes. Some damage to poorly constructed signs. Also, some coastal flooding and minor pier damage. Examples: Irene 1999 and Allison 1995

• Category 2 Hurricane—winds 96–110 mph (83–95 kt)
  Some damage to building roofs, doors and windows. Considerable damage to mobile homes. Flooding damages piers. Small craft in unprotected moorings may break their moorings. Some trees blown down.

• Category 3 Hurricane—winds 111–130 mph (96–113 kt)

• Category 4 Hurricane—winds 131–155 mph (114–135 kt)

• Category 5 Hurricane—winds 156+ mph (135+ kt)
  Complete roof failure on many residences and industrial buildings. Some complete building failures with small utility buildings blown over or away. Flooding causes major damage to lower floors of all structures near the shoreline. Massive evacuation of residential areas may be required. Examples: Andrew (FL) 1992, Camille 1969 and Labor Day 1935

For additional information, visit: www.noaa.org (storm info) • www.redcross.org (preparation/safety tips) • www.fema.gov (relief info)
How will I find out if I need to evacuate?
The university will be communicating hurricane related information through the Florida Tech website, Residence Life staff and the campus safety alert system. If unclear, contact Security or the Residence Life staff with questions.

What should I do if Florida Tech is evacuated?
- Evacuate early, don’t wait.
- First, try to find a family or friend with whom to stay; it’s more comfortable.
- If you can’t stay with family or friends, go to a local shelter.
- The shelter for Florida Tech students living on campus is Meadowlane Intermediate School, 2700 Wingate Blvd., West Melbourne.
- Other shelters will open if Meadowlane Intermediate School is full, so watch the news or check the student handbook available online as well.
- If the Florida Tech campus is evacuated and you do not have transportation, limited shuttle service will be provided by the Dean of Students Office. Shuttle schedules will be posted at Panther Dining Hall, the residential facilities and Campus Security.

What items should I bring to the shelter?
- Bedding—pillows, blankets, and/or a sleeping bag (Local shelters may not provide cots)
- Medications
- Clothing
- Personal hygiene items—soap, toothbrush
- Bedding, in case you go to a shelter—blankets or sleeping bags
- Flashlight
- Battery-operated radio
- LOTS of batteries—make sure you have the right sizes for flashlights, radios, etc.
- Cash—enough to last for several days

When should I return to Florida Tech?
When will classes resume?
You can find this information by:
- Listening to the radio (WFIT 89.5FM is the official radio station for Florida Tech hurricane information) and/or watching the local TV stations for announcements on when Florida Tech will reopen.
- Calling Security at 321-674-8111 or calling toll-free 888-820-4636.
- Security and Safety alerts—via the university emergency alert system. Please keep your emergency contact information current by updating your information in PAWS.

What about meals? Will Panther Dining Hall be serving food during the hurricane?
- No. Panther Dining Hall will serve the last meal approximately 12 hours before the expected hurricane land fall. With a category 1 or higher hurricane, a “to go” bag of snack food, fruit and water will be available for pick up at last meal service.
- Again, be sure to have bottled water and nonperishable food.

For additional information on preparations before, during and after the storm:
- Contact your Resident Assistant
- Notify family members where and when you plan to evacuate. Notify them when you arrive, as well.
- Check the student handbook available online at www.fit.edu/studenthandbook
- Refer to the University Disaster Plan, Emergency Response and Evacuation Procedures available online at www.fit.edu/security/disaster_plan.php
- Or, call the Dean of Students Office at 321-674-8080

Frequently Asked Questions
You should be able to answer these questions before a hurricane arrives:
- What are the hurricane hazards?
- Where will I go?
- How will I get there?
- What actions should I take to be prepared?
- Do I have the necessary preparation supplies?

When a hurricane is expected to make landfall in Brevard County, it is important to have a hurricane emergency supply kit. Your kit should include the following:
- Personal Identification (i.e., driver’s license, passport, etc.), FIT student ID and insurance ID card
- Water to last for three days—one gallon per person per day
- Nonperishable foods to last for three days—canned soup and vegetables, ready-to-eat fruit, peanut butter and crackers
- Canned juices
- Nonelectric can opener
- Paper cups, plates and utensils
- First aid supplies
- Medications
- Clothing
- Personal hygiene items—soap, toothbrush
- Bedding, in case you go to a shelter—blankets or sleeping bags
- Flashlight
- Battery-operated radio
- LOTS of batteries—make sure you have the right sizes for flashlights, radios, etc.
- Cash—enough to last for several days

Some coping tools include:
- Talk to others for support
- Try to maintain your routine and focus on something practical that you can do now to manage the situation better
- Engage in pleasant activities and positive distracting activities (i.e., hobbies, reading, sports, etc.)
- Use relaxation methods (i.e., breathing exercises, meditation, calming self-talk, soothing music, etc.)
- Utilize self-care (i.e., adequate rest, healthy meals, etc.)

If you are concerned about your own reactions, please contact the student counseling center (CAPS) for support at 321-674-8050.

NORMAL GRIEF REACTIONS AFTER THE HURRICANE
There are a variety of reactions that one can experience during and after a hurricane or other natural disaster.
These include: Cognitive – confusion, worry, intrusive thoughts and images, etc.
Emotional – shock, sadness, fear, anger, numbness, irritability, guilt and shame, etc.
Social – withdrawal from others, etc.
Physiological – fatigue, sleep difficulties, increased heart rate, stomachaches/ headaches, etc.
Some may experience courage, optimism, mobilization, social connectedness, alertness, increased energy, and a readiness to respond.

These include:
- Increased heart rate, stomachaches, etc.
- Emotional – shock, sadness, fear, anger, numbness, irritability, guilt and shame, etc.
- Cognitive – confusion, worry, intrusive thoughts and images, etc.
- Social – withdrawal from others, etc.
- Physiological – fatigue, sleep difficulties, increased heart rate, stomachaches/ headaches, etc.

Coping tools include:
- Engage in pleasant activities and positive distracting activities (i.e., hobbies, reading, sports, etc.)
- Use relaxation methods (i.e., breathing exercises, meditation, calming self-talk, soothing music, etc.)
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