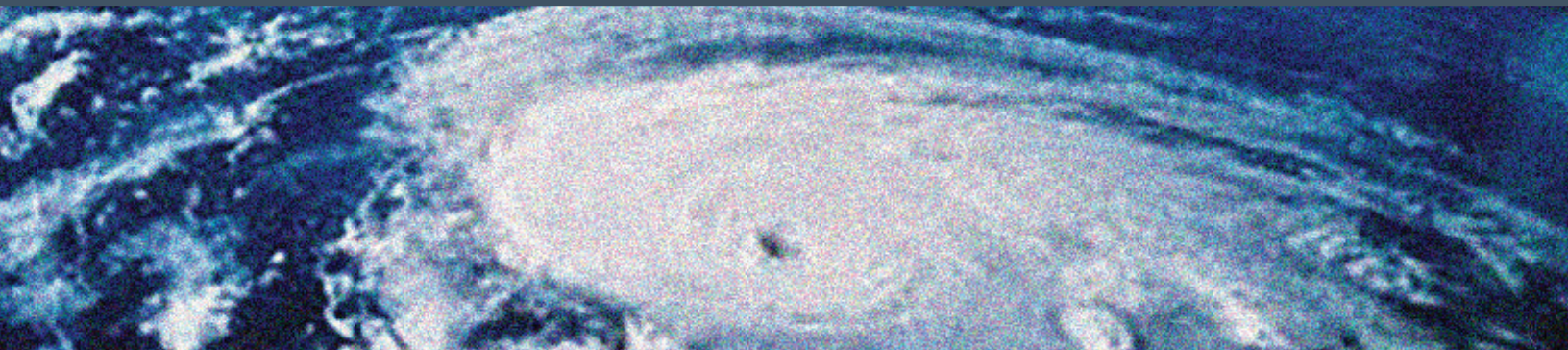


Extreme Storms and **HURRICANES**

FAQ



WHAT CAN STUDENTS DO AHEAD OF TIME TO BE PREPARED FOR EXTREME STORMS AND HURRICANES?

There are a number of things you can do now to be fully prepared in the event of a hurricane and other dangerous weather:

- Know your evacuation zone and nearest public shelter**
- Know your evacuation plan and route if you leave**
- Have a backup communication plan to keep in touch with family members and friends if cell phone and Internet coverage is out**
- Assemble an emergency kit – water, food, battery-powered radio, flashlight, first aid kit, cell phone, medications, etc.**
- Actively follow weather reports and heed official orders to avoid surprises**

University housing works with each individual student living on campus to develop an evacuation plan so they are prepared in the event of an extreme storm or hurricane. Additional information on preparedness is available on the USF Emergency Management website: <https://www.usf.edu/administrative-services/emergency-management/hazards/hurricane.aspx>

When does the University begin monitoring for potential hurricanes that may threaten the campus?

The USF St. Petersburg Emergency Management Team along with the USF System Emergency Management Department begins monitoring all extreme storm and hurricane activity long before it has the potential to threaten our region. We monitor activity throughout hurricane season and coordinate with state and local emergency management offices and the National Weather Service for the most up-to-date information. We send out weather updates and directions to the campus community continuously if a storm threatens the campus.

What are the main hazards associated with a hurricane that would impact the campus? Is the University susceptible to flooding?

High winds and gusts, heavy rainfall, flooding, and tornados are hazards that may accompany a hurricane and could impact the campus. Located on the water in the Tampa Bay region, USF St. Petersburg would be susceptible to storm surge flooding during an extreme storm event.

Will the University close during an extreme storm/hurricane and would students living on campus be evacuated?

All official information regarding campus closings, class cancellation, evacuation, and re-opening/re-population of the campus will be communicated through the main USF website, USFSP website and the USF Emergency Information Line by calling 1-800-992-4231.

USF St. Petersburg will work closely with Pinellas County and local officials as a severe storm is approaching. The University will determine if the campus will close and classes will be canceled based on potential impacts from the storm. The University will notify students immediately if there will be a closure. If the University closes under an evacuation order, all students will need to evacuate the campus. Students can choose to evacuate to a family members house, an emergency shelter, or evacuate the area via car or plane.

WHAT SUPPLIES SHOULD STUDENTS BRING IF THEY ARE EVACUATED TO A SAFE LOCATION FOR SHELTER?

First and foremost, students should contact family members to let them know of plans to evacuate to another location. Students will then want to bring with them:

- Clothes
- Medications
- Bathroom supplies
- Cash in case the power goes out and ATM/credit cards cannot be accepted
- Important documents and valuables
- Fully-charged cell phone
- Laptop and textbooks

Will students need to turn in assignments on time when the University is closed due to an extreme storm? What happens if they do not have access to the Internet?

All Professors are asked to set up their courses in Canvas (online learning platform) and have a plan to communicate with students and colleagues in regard to any storm-related cancellations and schedule changes. We ask faculty to be flexible with assignments and due dates during and after a storm. We encourage students to talk with their professors so they understand what to do during a storm event as it relates to their coursework as well as if they foresee difficulty returning to class on time once campus reopens.

When can students return to campus? When will classes resume?

Once public safety and University officials assess damages from the storm and ensure the campus is safe, students will be notified via email that they can return to campus. Student should also monitor the main USF website (usf.edu) and the USF St. Petersburg website (usfsp.edu) for the most current information on when campus will open for students to return and when classes will resume. We also highly recommend registering for MoBull Messenger, the emergency notification system for the USF System, to get the latest emergency notifications and campus information around an extreme storm event.

RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION ON EXTREME STORMS AND HURRICANES:

- Monitor USF and USF St. Petersburg website for the most current information before, during and after storm event.
usf.edu, usfsp.edu
- Enroll in AlertUSF to receive emergency notification texts.
<https://www.usf.edu/administrative-services/emergency-management/programs/emergency-notification-system.aspx>
- Review the USF Hurricane Guide, containing information to help plan and prepare for threatening weather conditions including how to assemble a disaster supply kit, information for making plans at home and at work, and tips for staying informed.
<https://www.usf.edu/administrative-services/emergency-management/documents/2019-hurricane-guide.pdf>
- Review the Emergency Management Website for additional information on Hurricane preparedness and links to local shelter information.

