



Department of Housing and

Residence Life

Hurricane and Threatening Weather Information

Updated May 2015

### ***PRE-HURRICANE INFORMATION***

Hurricane season runs each year from June 1 to November 30. It is important that all Housing and Residence Life residents stay informed about changing weather conditions. All residents are encouraged to stay alert to local television & radio announcements concerning the status of all storms.

The University is not liable for damage to or loss of personal property, failure or interruption of utilities, or for injury or inconvenience to persons (except to the extent set forth in Florida Statutes, Sec. 768.28 [2003]). Students are encouraged to provide their own health and personal property loss insurance. In circumstances where an evacuation may be necessary, shelter facilities or transportation to shelter facilities are not provided by the University.

### ***WATCHES AND WARNINGS***

A WATCH means that tropical storm or hurricane conditions are a possible threat within 36 hours in the specified region. You should begin preliminary preparations to protect your life and your property. A WARNING means that tropical storm or hurricane conditions are expected in a specified region.

### ***DURING A HURRICANE WATCH***

Take a look around your room and/or apartment. The following number of things should be done to prepare, in the event you are asked to evacuate:

- All furniture, including beds, should be pulled away from the windows. Computers, TVs, stereo equipment, etc., should be raised off the floor; preferably in a closet or the study area.
- All articles on the floor (shoes, rugs, clothes, boxes, suitcases, etc.) should be placed on closet shelves or in dresser drawers.
- All loose objects should be placed in drawers or closets. Paper, books, etc., should not be left on top of dressers or desks.
- All window blinds should be in the raised position. All curtains should be closed.
- **Do not tape window glass!**
- Any resident who owns a vehicle should have the gas tank filled.
- If you do not plan to use your vehicle for evacuation purposes, you should place your vehicle in your assigned parking area with the emergency brake set and in reverse gear or park. Ideally, you'll want to park them in a parking garage if available. All windows should be closed and the vehicle locked. Vehicles parked

near buildings and not in an approved parking area (i.e. motorcycles in bike racks, cars in loading zones) will be removed or towed at owner's expense.

- Bicycles should be brought in from the outside and stored in your bedroom.
- Motorcycles, mopeds, and any other vehicle containing combustible fuel may NOT be stored in or near Housing and Residence Life. It is your responsibility to find alternate locations to store motorcycles and mopeds.
- Disconnect all unneeded appliances. But leave your refrigerators plugged in and turned on coldest settings.
- Unplug computers and other electronics. Also unplug the Ethernet cord when unplugging your computer.

### ***DURING A HURRICANE WARNING***

In the event a hurricane warning is issued, USFSP may evacuate the campus. Please inform your RA or Housing and Residence Life Office personnel where you are going (e.g. home, friends, etc.) If that decision is made, be prepared to leave your on-campus residence. **BE SURE TO LOCK ALL DOORS WHEN YOU LEAVE!** Additionally, turn off all water faucets, showers, etc. For security purposes, the card access to all exterior entrances will be changed. Residents may not reenter University buildings until the University officially announces that Housing and Residence Life is ready to reopen.

### ***AFTER THE HURRICANE***

Stay tuned to TV or radio broadcasts for the re-opening of the University campuses, call the USF Hotline telephone number (727-873-4873) for your specific campus information, or check [www.usfsp.edu](http://www.usfsp.edu) for updates.

### ***HURRICANE SHELTERS***

Do not report to a Red Cross shelter until it is officially opened. The University and all local media will announce shelter openings. Pets, firearms, alcoholic beverages, and other illegal substances are not permitted in Red Cross shelters.

Transportation to local Red Cross designated shelters is not provided. Housing and Residence Life is not a designated shelter area. Be advised: Shelters will be crowded and uncomfortable with no privacy.

Residents who need to go to local shelters are encouraged by the Red Cross to bring the following items:

- Beddings, including pillows, blankets
- Folding beach chair (to use as a bed)
- Prescription medication
- Single servings of food (granola/cereal bars, etc.)
- Extra set of clothing, toiletries
- Canned foods & manual can opener
- Flashlight/batteries
- Books, games
- First aid kit

- Drinking water
- Cash, traveler's checks
- 24-hour supply of non- perishable food
- Valuable documents
- Books, study material
- Photo Identification (driver's license, student I.D. card, etc.)

*Be sure to pack lightly! YOU will have to carry all items you bring. In addition, security of your items is up to you! Remember, hurricane shelters should be utilized as a LAST RESORT. Residents are encouraged to stay with family or friends when possible.*

***USF highly recommends that all faculty, staff and students opt-in to MoBull Messenger. MoBull Messenger is part of USF's Emergency Notification System. It is a free service that notifies our community and campus in the event of a campus emergency. Standard text messaging rates may apply, so be sure to check with your carrier for details on your plan.***

***For more information, please visit: <http://www.mobull.usf.edu/>***

**Tampa Bay Chapter Red Cross Shelter website:**

<http://www.redcrosstbc.org>

<http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/default.htm>

### ***PLAN AHEAD***

Do not wait until the last minute to purchase supplies. Past experiences shows that once a Hurricane Watch is announced, many supplies are depleted and store checkout lines can take several hours.

Each resident should stock up on battery-powered lighting (flashlights) and will be asked to provide a flashlight in case of power failure. DO NOT use