



# **Severe Weather Emergency Procedures**

**Hurricane | Lightning | Tornado**

**NSU Emergency Hotline**  
**800-256-5065 or (954) 262-7300**



# HURRICANE

## Hurricane Storm Advisory and Preparation

**Hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30.**

A hurricane is a severe tropical cyclone originating in the equatorial regions of the Atlantic Ocean or Caribbean Sea; traveling north, northwest, or northeast; which normally is accompanied by torrential downpours. A tropical storm becomes a hurricane when its surface winds speed reach and sustain 74 miles per hour or greater. Typically, a hurricane's forward speed averages around 15–20 miles per hour. However, this can vary greatly depending on the storm.

There have been hurricanes that have accelerated up to more than 60 miles per hour and hurricanes that have stalled their forward movement to less than 1 mile per hour.

### Hurricane Preparation

A number of hurricanes make landfall every year, which often cause damage to property and even fatalities.

Nova Southeastern University's (NSU's) Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan includes a Personal Preparedness Plan that can help you and your family prepare for severe weather events. The three basic steps are

STEP 1: Make a Plan

STEP 2: Share Your Plan

STEP 3: Stay Informed

The steps are simple, but depending upon your family and living area, there can be a lot to consider. NSU's step-by-step workbook allows you to customize a complete working plan in advance, with additional tools like a detailed supply list and a list of resources. Access the plan today by using your NSU credentials to log into [nova.edu/publicsafety/cemp.html](http://nova.edu/publicsafety/cemp.html).

## Hurricane Watches and Warnings

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, a hurricane watch means that hurricane conditions are possible within a specified area. A hurricane watch is issued 48 hours prior to the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds in an area.

A hurricane warning means that hurricane conditions are expected somewhere within the specified area. Hurricane warnings are issued 36 hours prior to the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds to allow for preparation.

### NSU's Response to a Hurricane Watch

In the event of a hurricane watch, NSU's president will confer with members of the university's administrative staff in preparation for hurricane protection activities.

Members of the NSU community may begin making personal plans for a potential campus evacuation. Employees may begin taking measures to prepare facilities and equipment for the storm.

### NSU's Response to a Hurricane Warning

#### University Closing

In the event that a hurricane warning is issued, NSU's president will decide if the university will be evacuated.

If NSU's president orders the closing of the university, the appropriate directives will be relayed by the vice presidents to their areas of responsibility.

NSU's Office of Public Relations, Marketing, and Creative Services will inform the NSU community as well as contact major news organizations for immediate notification of the closing.

### Preparations for University Closure

#### Offices and Classrooms

Prepare offices and/or workspaces for wind and water damage by doing the following:

- Clear all desk tops completely.

- Protect books, computers and other water sensitive property with plastic coverings and masking tape—contact NSU's Robert S. Lafferty Sr. Central Energy Plant (referred to as Physical Plant) for materials, if necessary.
- Secure glass, sharp, and heavy objects. Securely store fragile items to prevent the risk of falling.
- Remove any and all personal items. Keep them at home until the storm passes.
- Disconnect all electrical equipment.
- Clear all laboratory tables and areas of all apparatuses and glassware. Store items securely.
- Backup important files on portable media. Store said media at home until the storm passes.
- Do not tape window glass.

### Student Housing

Students may purchase renters' insurance if they would like, since the university is not responsible for the loss or damage to their personal items.

Insurance coverage should be arranged before you move into the dormitory/room. Renters' insurance is available from most major insurance companies.

All furniture should be pulled away from the windows. All loose objects, valuables, and electronics should be placed in drawers, closets, or other secure locations. Paper, books, and other stationary items should not be left on desks or dresser tops. Any closets should be locked and remain locked until the storm has passed.

Students who reside in a room that contains a bathtub are requested to clean the bathtub and fill it halfway with water. This is done to provide residents with clean water in the event that the water supply is disrupted or contaminated during the storm (for cleaning purposes). It is also recommended that students fill bottles with water and store them in a refrigerator (for drinking purposes).

All windows should be closed and secured. Blinds should be put down and closed. Do not put tape on the windows.

Students should have a flashlight as well as batteries in case of a power failure. Do not use candles. Candles could lead to the room igniting with fire, causing an even bigger problem.

Students should prepare themselves with an adequate supply of nonperishable foods to last themselves for 2-3 days.

In the event that the NSU president orders an evacuation of the residence halls, students may choose to leave to seek shelter from the storm with friends or family. If residential students choose to vacate the residence halls prior to the storm, they must fill out a Housing Hurricane Release Form and drop it off at the Office of Residential Life and Housing or with their residential assistant. Residents must also inform Residential Life and Housing staff where they will be staying.

Once the president has ordered an evacuation of the residence halls, those students who have not vacated the premises will be evacuated by Residential Life and Housing staff members prior to the arrival of the storm.

NSU students living on campus are also encouraged to conduct an annual review of the Hurricane and Tropical Storm Procedure section of the *Residential Living Guide*, which can be found at [nova.edu/housing/forms/residential-living-guide](http://nova.edu/housing/forms/residential-living-guide).

### Safety Procedure During the Hurricane

Students are directed to follow the instructions of Public Safety officers, police officers, other emergency personnel, and Residential Life and Housing staff members.

- Stay indoors until it has been deemed safe to exit.
- Stay in interior hallways and keep all doors closed.
- Do not go near to or open any windows to see what is happening outside.
- Beware of the eye of the storm. The eye is the center of a hurricane. Winds may be calm while the eye of the storm is passing over an area. It is not advisable to leave the shelter during this time. Students should not leave the safety of the shelter until advised by a Public Safety officer or other local official. Residential students will also

be notified by Residential Life and Housing staff members when it is safe to exit the shelter.

- When the “all clear” is given, it has been deemed safe to exit the shelter. When exiting the shelter be sure to do so cautiously. Avoid all potentially harmful safety hazards that may be present after the storm (e.g., downed trees or downed power lines).
- Do not attempt to enter structures, vehicles, or areas that are damaged.
- For NSU opening information, call the **NSU Hurricane Hotline** at **(954) 262-7300** or the toll-free **Emergency Hotline** at **800-256-5065**.
- Enter NSU property only after permitted and follow safety instructions.

### NSU Hurricane Web Page

The [nova.edu/hurricane](http://nova.edu/hurricane) web page will provide official information regarding campus closures, event cancellations, and campus reopenings.

New information will be posted as frequently as warranted. Should the main NSU website become unavailable due to a storm (*nova.edu*), an alternate informational website will be available as a backup (*blackout.nova.edu*).

### NSU Emergency Hotline 800-256-5065

This hotline will provide official information regarding campus closures, event cancellations, and campus reopenings. New information will be posted as frequently as warranted. The main telephone number for the university, (954) 262-7300, also serves as a hotline during a hurricane watch or warning.

### Severe Weather Prediction System

NSU incorporates a severe weather and lightning prediction system that is utilized by key personnel for event planning, facilities management, and the vacating of the university’s athletic fields. In addition, an outdoor speaker system, which is a part of the NSU Alert Emergency Notification System, may be used to broadcast lightning warnings to the university’s athletic fields.

# Hurricane Information

## NSU Information Hotline and Hurricane Website

NSU provides a toll-free, 24-hour **emergency hotline** for these types of emergencies. The **hotline** number is **800-256-5065**. In addition, the main telephone number for the university is **(954) 262-7300**, which will also serve as a **hotline** during hurricane watches and warning events.

In the event that a hurricane watch is declared, a link to the latest NSU-related hurricane information will appear at the top of the NSU homepage (*nova.edu*).

## Local Government Emergency Management/Hurricane Hotline Phone Numbers and Media Resources

**Florida:** (850) 815-4000

Florida Division of Emergency Management:  
*floridadisaster.org*

**Miami-Dade County:** (305) 468-5900

Radio: WHQT 105.1 FM, WKIS 99.9 FM,  
WIOD 610 AM

Television: Channel 6 WTVJ-NBC,  
Channel 7 WSVN-FOX, Channel 10 WPLG-ABC,  
Channel 4 WFOR-CBS.

**Broward County:** (954) 831-3900

Radio: WHQT 105.1 FM, WKIS 99.9 FM,  
WIOD 610 AM

Television: Channel 6 WTVJ-NBC,  
Channel 7 WSVN-FOX, Channel 10 WPLG-ABC,  
Channel 4 WFOR-CBS

**Palm Beach County:** (561) 712-6400

Radio: WBZT 1230 AM, WJNO 1290 AM

Television: Channel 5 WPTV-NBC,  
Channel 12 WPEC-CBS, Channel 25 WPBF-ABC

**Lee County:** (239) 477-3600

Radio: WGCU 90.1 FM, WMYR 1410 AM

Television: Channel 11 WINK, Channel 2 NBC  
(RSW), Channel 7 WZVN

**Pinellas County:** (727) 464-3800

Radio: WFLA 970 AM, WHNZ 1250 AM

Television: WTVT Channel 13, WFTS ABC 28

**Orange County:** (407) 836-3773

Radio: WMXQ 102.9 FM, WWKA 92.3 FM,  
WHTQ 96.5 FM

Television: WFTV Channel 9, News Channel 13

**Duval County:** (904) 630-2472

Radio: WMXQ 102.9 FM, WBOB 1320 AM

Television: WJXT TV 4, WAWS FOX 30

**Puerto Rico:** (787) 480-2030

Radio: WIOA 99.9 FM, WROS 1050 AM

Television: Telemundo PR, WLII-DT- Univision  
Channel 11



# LIGHTNING

## What You Need to Know

- No place outside is safe when thunderstorms are in the area.
- If you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to strike you.
- When you hear thunder, immediately move to safe shelter.
- Safe shelter is a substantial building or inside an enclosed, metal-topped vehicle.
- Stay in the safe shelter at least 30 minutes after you hear the last clap of thunder.

## Indoor Lightning Safety Tips

- Stay off corded phones, computers, and other electrical equipment that may put you in direct contact with electricity.
- Avoid plumbing, including sinks, baths, and faucets.
- Stay away from windows and doors and stay off porches.
- Do not lie on concrete floors and do not lean against concrete walls.

## Last Resort Outdoor Risk Reduction Tips

No place outside is safe when lightning is in the area, but if you are caught outside with no safe shelter anywhere nearby, the following actions may prevent lightning related injuries:

- Immediately get off elevated areas such as hills, mountain ridges or peaks.
- Never lie flat on the ground.
- Never use a tree as shelter.
- Never use a cliff or a rocky overhang for shelter.
- Immediately get out of or away from any bodies of water.
- Stay away from objects that conduct electricity (e.g., barbed wire fences, power lines, windmills.)

Under no circumstances should anyone choose to stay outside when lightning is present. Always seek safe shelter.

## If Someone is Struck

- Be advised that victims do not carry an electrical charge.
- The victim may need immediate medical attention.
- Call 9-1-1 for help.
- Monitor the victim and begin cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), or use an automated external defibrillator (AED) if needed and if one is available.

Note: This advisory contains only basic information on protection from lightning strikes. For more information, contact your local weather bureau or government agencies.



# TORNADO

Tornadoes are violent atmospheric wind events that can form anywhere, anytime, and with little to no warning. You should have a tornado survival plan for all the locations that you frequent.

Discuss these plans with family and friends to familiarize yourselves with the proper responses to take in the event of a tornado.

## Tornado Watch

A tornado watch is issued when weather conditions are favorable for producing a tornado or multiple tornadoes.

## Tornado Warning

A tornado warning is issued when one or more tornadoes have been spotted in the area.

Occasionally, tornadoes will develop so rapidly that advanced warnings may not be possible. While under a tornado watch, one should remain alert for signs of an approaching tornado. Such signs include, but are not limited to, dark or greenish clouds, large hail, and loud roars of wind that sound similar to a freight train.

## Tornado Safety Rules

- The safest place to be during a tornado is in an underground shelter, basement, or safe room.
- If no underground shelter is available, a small windowless interior room or hallway on the lowest level of a sturdy building is the safest alternative.
- Be advised that mobile homes are not safe during a tornado. It is best to abandon mobile homes and head toward the nearest sturdy building or shelter immediately.
- If you are caught outdoors, seek shelter in a basement or sturdy building. If you cannot quickly walk or drive to a shelter, you should
  - lie flat and face-down on low-lying ground while protecting the back of your head with your arms
  - get as far away from trees and cars as possible
  - cover your body with a coat or blanket to prevent any cuts from glass that may have been blown in the air
  - not seek shelter under an overpass, as it may accelerate the winds of the tornado, making it an even more dangerous place

Note: This advisory contains only basic information on protection from tornadoes. For more information, contact your local weather bureau or government agencies.



## Severe Weather Emergency

NSU Hurricane Web Page

[nova.edu/hurricane](http://nova.edu/hurricane)

NSU Emergency Hotline

800-256-5065 or (954) 262-7300

# NSU Florida

OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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[nova.edu/publicsafety](http://nova.edu/publicsafety)