Lightning

What You Need to Know

• NO PLACE outdoors 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 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 put you in direct contact with electricity.
• Avoid plumbing, including sinks, bathtubs, 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 outdoors is safe when lightning is in the area.

If you are caught outside with no safe shelter nearby, the following actions may reduce your risk.

• Immediately get off elevated areas such as hills, mountain ridges, or peaks.
• NEVER lie flat on the ground.
• NEVER use a tree for shelter.
• NEVER use a clift or rocky overhang for shelter.
• Immediately get out and away from ponds, lakes, and other bodies of water.
• Stay away from objects that conduct electricity (barbed wire fences, power lines, windmills, etc.).

If Someone Is Struck

• Victims do not carry an electrical charge and may need immediate medical attention.
• Monitor the victim and begin CPR or AED, if necessary.
• Call 9-1-1 for help.

Tornado

Tornadoes, the most violent atmospheric storms, can form anywhere at any time. You must have a survival plan for everywhere you may be. Discuss these plans with your family and friends and then make safety plans. It could save a life.

Tornado Watch

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

Tornado Warning

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

Occasionally, tornadoes develop so rapidly that advance warning is not possible. Remain alert for signs of an approaching tornado such as a dark, often greenish sky, large hail, or a loud roar similar to a freight train.

Tornado Safety Rules

• An underground shelter, basement, or safe room is the safest place.
• If no underground shelter or safe room is available, a small, windowless interior room or hallway on the lowest level of a sturdy building is the safest alternative.
• Mobile homes are not safe during tornadoes. Abandon mobile homes and go to the nearest sturdy building or shelter immediately.
• If you are caught outdoors, seek shelter in a basement, shelter, or sturdy building. If you cannot quickly walk to a shelter, the following are options.
• Immediately get into a vehicle, buckle your seat belt, and try to drive to the closest sturdy shelter.
• If flying debris occurs while you are driving, pull over and park. Now you have the following options as a last resort:
  • Stay in your vehicle with the seat belt buckled. Put your head down below the windows, and cover your head with your hands and a blanket, if possible.
  • If you can safely get noticeably lower than the level of the roadway, exit your car, and lie in that area, covering your head with your hands.
• Your choice should be driven by your specific circumstances.
Preparation for a hurricane involves knowing when to evacuate. An evacuation is the best precaution for surviving any hurricane. When a hurricane will strike.

Hurricane Watches and Warnings

A hurricane watch is a governmental agency announcement issued for an area when there is a threat of hurricane conditions striking within 48 hours. A hurricane warning is an announcement issued for an area when hurricane conditions are expected to strike within 36 hours. When a hurricane warning is received, all protective preparations should be made, with the expectation that the hurricane will strike.

Hurricane Watch

In the event of a hurricane watch, the university president will confer with members of NSU’s administrative staff in preparation for severe tropical cyclone protection. Members of the university community may begin plans for evacuating the campus and preparing facilities and accommodations for protection.

Hurricane Warning

UNIVERSITY CLOSING

• If a hurricane warning is issued, the university president will decide if the university will be evacuated.

• If the hurricane warning is the result of the university, the appropriate directives will be relayed by the vice presidents to their areas of responsibility.

• NSU Office of Public Affairs will contact major news organizations for immediate broadcast notification of the closing.

Closing Preparation

OFFICE AND CLASSROOM

Prepare office and/or work space for wind, water damage, and flooding.

• Clear desk tops completely.

Family Emergency Plan

Make sure your family has a plan in case of an emergency. Before an emergency happens, sit down together and decide how you will get in contact with each other, where you will meet, and what you will do in an emergency. Keep a copy of this plan in your emergency supply kit or another safe place where you can access it in the event of a disaster. For help creating this plan, visit www.ready.gov/domestic/

Hurricane Watch Notification

For real-time severe weather alerts—including lightning, tornado, and storm warnings—for NSU’s four South Florida campuses visit www.nova.edu/emergency

NSU Severe Weather Alerts

For real-time severe weather alerts—including lightning, tornado, and storm warnings—for NSU’s four South Florida campuses visit www.nova.edu/emergency

In the event that a hurricane warning is declared, a spining hurricane icon appears at the top of the NSU homepage at www.nova.edu. The latest NSU-related hurricane information (including university community information is available by calling the HOTLINE numbers or via the Web at Nova Southeastern University Web site, www.nova.edu/hurricane.

Local Government Emergency Management/Hurricane Hotline

Phone numbers and Media Sources

Hurricane Information: NSU Emergency Hotline Web site

Nova Southeastern University provides a toll-free, 24-hour, 7-day a week hotline during hurricane season. The HOTLINE number is 800-256-5065. In addition, the main telephone number for the university, (954) 262-7600, also serves as a HOTLINE during hurricane watch/warning events. In the event that a hurricane warning is declared, a spining hurricane icon appears at the top of the NSU homepage at www.nova.edu. The latest NSU-related hurricane information (including university community information is available by calling the HOTLINE numbers or via the Web at Nova Southeastern University Web site, www.nova.edu/hurricane.

Local government hurricane information can be obtained by visiting the Florida Division of Emergency Management’s Hurricane Information: NSU Emergency Hotline Web site: www.floridadisaster.org/hotline/.

Remember to keep a portable radio and plenty of spare radio batteries or a self-powered, hand-cranked radio on hand.

Hurricane Web site

http://www.floridadisaster.org/hotline/

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Closing Preparation

OFFICE AND CLASSROOM

Prepare office and/or work space for wind, water damage, and flooding.

• Clear desk tops completely.

• Protect books, computers, and property with plastic sheeting and masking tape—contact Physical Plant for plastic sheeting and tape.

• Secure glass and heavy and sharp objects—carefully store items so that they will not fall.

• Take rodeo’s, books, and daires with you.

• Disconnect all electrical equipment.

• Clear any laboratory tables and areas of all apparatus and glassware and place items into secure storage.

• Computers: Copy important files onto portable media and take media with you.

• Do not tape window glass.

Student Housing

While Nova Southeastern University has identified off-campus shelter for residents during a hurricane, during a tropical storm the residence halls may shelter students in the residence halls. It is imperative to properly prepare before a hurricane or tropical storm strikes.

Some residents have inquired about insurance. Students may purchase renter’s insurance, since the university is not responsible for the loss or damage to your personal items. Insurance coverage for property arranged before you move into your room. Renter’s insurance is available from most major insurance companies.

All furniture, including beds, should be pulled away from the windows.

All loose objects, valuables, and electronics should be placed in drawers or under beds, and in plastic containers. Don’t use paper, books, etc., should not be left on tops of desks or dressers. The closing and drawers should be locked/closed and remain locked/closed throughout the hurricane.

All windows must be closed tightly and locked. All blinds should be down and closed. DO NOT put tape on windows.

Each student should provide her/his own flashlight with extra batteries.

Follow the instructions of Public Safety, police officers, and emergency personnel.

• Residence hall students should follow the instructions of Public Safety and NSU’s administrative staff.

• Stay indoors until advised to evacuate.

• Do not open windows or doors to see what is happening outside.

• Beware of the eye of the storm. The eye is the center of the hurricane, which may bring a temporary period of calm.

• Do not 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 1-800-256-5065.

• Enter NSU property only after permitted, and follow safety instructions.

Residence students will be notified by residential life staff members.

• When the “all clear” is given, exit your location with extreme care. Beware of potential fall-themed hazards, both visible and hidden—including downed electrical lines.

• Do not enter structures, vehicles, or areas that are damaged.

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