

Severe Weather Emergency Procedures

Hurricane Storm Advisory and Preparation

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

Definition:

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.

Making a plan to protect yourself and your loved ones is an essential part of your personal preparedness plan for hurricanes.

The key to withstanding a hurricane is preparedness. Preparing for a hurricane must occur before a hurricane presents a threat and resources become scarce.

Knowing the living area: It is essential that people understand where they live and what actions should be taken in the event of a hurricane; either evacuate or fortify their living quarters.

NSU has provided a Personal Preparedness Plan template that can assist members of the NSU community and their families to prepare for Severe Weather Events, which can be accessed from the following link
<https://www.nova.edu/publicsafety/cemp.html>.

Hurricane Watches and Warnings

According to the National Oceanic 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 the university president will confer with members of NSU's



administrative staff in preparation for hurricane protection activities.

Members of the NSU community may begin plans and start preparing for evacuating the campus and preparing facilities and equipment for hurricane protection.

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.

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

Preparations for Closing the University

Offices and Classrooms

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

- Clear desk tops completely.
- Protect books, computers and other water sensitive property with plastic coverings and masking tape – contact Physical Plant Department for materials.
- 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 and 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 should not be left on desk or dresser tops. Any closets should be locked and remained lock until the storm has passed.

Students that reside in a room that contains a bathtub are requested to clean the tub and fill it halfway. This is in to provide residents with clean water (for washing clothes and etc.), in the event that the water supply is disrupted or contaminated during the storm. It is also recommended that students fill bottles with

water and store them in the 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 power failure. Do not use candles. Candles could lead to the room igniting with fire causing an even bigger problem.

Students should allot themselves with an adequate supply of non-perishable foods to last themselves for 2-3 days.

In the event that the President of the University orders an evacuation of the Residential Halls, students may choose to leave in order to shelter from the storm with friends or family. If residential students choose to vacate the Residential Halls prior to the storm, they must fill out a Housing Hurricane Release Form and drop it off at the Office of Residential Life & Housing or with their Residential Assistant. Residents must also inform Residential Life & Housing Staff where they will be staying.

Once the President has ordered an evacuation of the Residential Halls, the students who have not vacated their Residential Hall will be evacuated by Residential Life 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 <https://www.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 and other emergency personnel.

- Residential students should follow the instructions of the Residential Life Staff.
- 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. While the eye is passing over an area the winds may be calm. 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 staff 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 (ex. 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.

Hurricane Information:

NSU Information Hotline and Hurricane Web Site

Nova Southeastern University provides a toll-free, 24-hour **Emergency Hotline** for this type of emergency. 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 www.nova.edu.

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

Florida

Florida Division of Emergency Management:

<http://www.floridadisaster.org/>

Miami-Dade County: (305) 468-5900

Radio: WHQT-FM Hot 105, WKIS-FM 99.9 KISS, WIOD-AM 610

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

Broward County: (954) 831-3900

Radio: WHQT-FM Hot 105, WKIS-FM 99.9 KISS, WIOD-AM 610

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: WFVT 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

NSU Emergency/Hurricane Web Page

This site (www.nova.edu/hurricane/) will provide official information regarding campus closures, event cancellations and campus re-openings. New information will be posted as frequently as warranted. Should the main NSU web site (www.nova.edu) become unavailable due to a storm, an alternate (backup) informational web site will be available at <http://blackout.nova.edu>.

NSU Emergency Hotline 800-256-5065

This hotline will provide official information regarding campus closures, event cancellation and campus re-openings. 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

Nova Southeastern University incorporates a severe weather and lightning prediction system that is utilized by key personnel for event planning, facility management, and the vacating of the university's athletic fields. In addition, an outdoor speaker system that is a part of the Emergency Notification System may be used to broadcast an audible severe weather and lightning warnings to all of the university's athletic fields.

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 (ex. barbed wire fences, power lines, windmills, etc.).

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 CPR or use an AED, if necessary.

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 at any time with little to no warning. You must have a survival plan for everywhere you may be. Discuss these plans with family and friends to familiarize them with the proper procedure 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 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 towards 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 or drive to a shelter:
 - Lie flat and face-down on low lying ground. Protect 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.
 - Do not seek shelter under an overpass. It could 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

www.nova.edu/hurricane/

NSU Emergency Hotline

800-256-5065

Or

(954) 262-7300



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Florida

Public Safety Department
3301 College Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33314-7796
www.nova.edu/cwis/pubsafety