

Hurricane Survival Guide for International Students

Pre-storm planning

1. Contact friends, family or look for the nearest shelter to secure a place to stay in case your area is evacuated.
2. Gather important documents such as birth certificate, Passport, VISA, I-20, DS-2019, I-94, EAD card, insurance information, prescriptions, etc., and store in a water-proof bag/container. (Make copies of everything and store separately from originals!!) Make sure to keep the documents available in case of an emergency.
3. Review hurricane prep guide from the newspaper, internet, or news to create a personal shopping list and plan for emergency evacuation.
4. Buy plastic storage boxes with handles and secure lids (available at Wal-mart, Target, etc.) to serve as emergency boxes and fill them with enough emergency supplies for a week.
5. On-campus students: review the USF hurricane instructions for residents online at <http://www.pplant.usf.edu/hurricane/ResPrep.htm> and <http://www.reserv.usf.edu/hurricaneprocedures.html>
6. Hurricane Tracking websites:
 - a. <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>
 - b. http://www.usf.edu/emergency_preparedness.asp
7. Save and clean a variety of two-liter bottles, to fill with water.
8. If you are staying at home, determine the safest spot- an inside walled area with NO windows. An inside bathroom, underneath stairs or inside a hallway are examples of walled areas.

Storm Approaching

1. Bring in everything not attached to the house- plants, wind chimes, bird feeder, furniture, etc.
2. Make or buy and store ice.
3. Stock up on supplies: batteries, radio, flashlights, candles, food, water, books, games, etc.
4. Make sure you have enough cash (ATMs will not work without electricity).
5. Get medications refilled- have a 30-day supply.
6. Charge all cell phone batteries.
7. Keep car filled with gas, check oil, tires, etc.
8. Wash all your clothes

Shopping List

1. Prepacked/ Canned Food and other non-perishable items such as:
 - canned meat, soups, milk, fish, fruits, and vegetables
 - bread in moisture proof packaging/ crackers
 - cookies, candy, dried fruit
 - cereal/ oatmeal/multigrain bars and pop-tarts
 - peanut butter and jelly
 - instant coffee and tea
2. Hand operated can opener
3. Flashlights
4. Battery powered radio or tv
5. Extra batteries
6. Ice chest and ice
7. First aid including: aspirin, antibiotic cream, and band-aids
8. Sun Screen
9. Mosquito repellent
10. Unscented bleach or water purification tablets
11. Toilet paper
12. Disposable eating utensils, plates, cups, and napkins

13. Trash bags
14. Cheap camera and film (disposable camera is best)- to take pictures of damage
15. Anti-bacterial hand sanitizer and/or baby wipes
16. Duck tape
17. Car cell phone charger
18. Corded Phone
19. Small Grill

Storm is Going to Hit

1. Secure windows by closing with tape or shutters.
2. Pack clothing in case evacuation is necessary.
3. Fill bathtub, large clean trashcans, large pots, and other containers with water.
4. Gather pillows and blankets and place in secure area.
5. Place your emergency box, food, and water in a secure area.
6. Turn freezer to colder setting/ fill with bags off ice and 2 liter bottles of water
7. Cook all food that could potentially spoil
8. Unplug electrical items such as a computer and tv.
9. Put textbooks, picture albums, and other special memorabilia in plastic bags.
10. Gather a group of companions and stay together

Storm Hits

1. Stay calm
2. Continue to watch the news/listen to radio for updates
3. Avoid using cell phone as much as possible
4. Do not use electrical appliances
5. Stay indoors

After the Storm

Once the storm passes and emergency workers have cleared the roads of trees, fallen power lines, and completed rescue operations:

1. Use caution when walking or driving outside
2. Check for damage of home/property.
3. If you smell gas, open windows and leave home immediately.
4. If you have power, check for signs of electrical damage such as sparks or frayed wires. Another sign is the smell of something burning.
5. If there is water in the house, try to remove as much water as possible, than make sure home is well ventilated. Clean wet clothing and furniture. Have any electrical appliance exposed to water serviced before using it.
6. Continue to watch the news or listen to the radio for updates.

Information was Acquired From the Following Websites

<http://pplant.usf.edu/hurricane/ResPrep.htm>

<http://usfnews.usf.edu/printerview.cfm?link=article&aid=608>

http://www.tampagov.net/dept_Public_Works/emergency_prep/disaster_supply_kit.asp

http://www.southcom.mil/hurricaneprep/hurricane_survival_kit.htm

<http://hurricane.weathercenter.com/guide/surkit.htm>

http://www.wwsb.com/frameset.asp?page=http://www.wwsb.com/weather/hurricane/survival_kit.shtml