



Hurricane Guide

UT Operations

The Office of Operations website has information regarding hurricane preparedness and other campus

Your individual preparedness contributes significantly to UT's ability to prepare for, respond to and recover from any storm – minor or major. The information contained in this guide is intended to help you prepare. Additional hurricane preparedness information is available from the FEMA website at [ready.gov/hurricanes](https://www.ready.gov/hurricanes) as well as other resources listed in this guide.

This guide can serve as your ready reference for the specific activities that are likely to occur should a tropical storm or hurricane threaten the Tampa Bay area. Hurricane season encompasses June through November with August to October being the most active months. Prior to this time, it is important to prepare. Maintain a disaster supply kit, have a plan in place, keep track of the weather and university communications, and be prepared!

Hurricane season begins on June 1 and runs through Nov. 30

Tropical depressions are low-pressure storm systems with maximum sustained surface winds of 38 mph or less. Tropical storms have maximum sustained surface winds of 39-73 mph. Hurricanes are large, spiraling tropical cyclones with wind speeds of 74 mph and can elevate to over 160 mph and unleash more than 2.4 trillion gallons of rain per day. Forty percent of the hurricanes that occur in the U.S. hit Florida, so it's critical for the UT community to be alert and prepared. Remember, tropical storms and hurricanes can intensify and change direction within hours.

The National Weather Service (NWS) and National Hurricane Center (NHC) release information regarding storm strength, forward speed, timing and landfall probabilities. States, communities, local weather forecasters and others rely on this information to decide when to take preparedness actions and to make evacuation recommendations and decisions. UT monitors weather forecasts from the NWS and NHC and receives situational reports from both Florida Division of Emergency Management and the Hillsborough County Office of Emergency Management regarding actions taken for our community.

Watch vs Warning

Hurricane watches and warnings are issued by the National Hurricane Center; these designations correspond to hours before the estimated time of arrival of gale force or hurricane force winds, and the likelihood the event is to occur.

A watch lets you know that weather conditions are favorable for a hazard to occur. Watches are issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical storm force winds. During a weather watch, gather awareness of the specific threat and prepare for action – monitor the weather to find out if severe weather conditions have deteriorated and discuss your protective action plans with your family.

A warning requires immediate action. Warnings are issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical storm force winds.

Forecast Cone

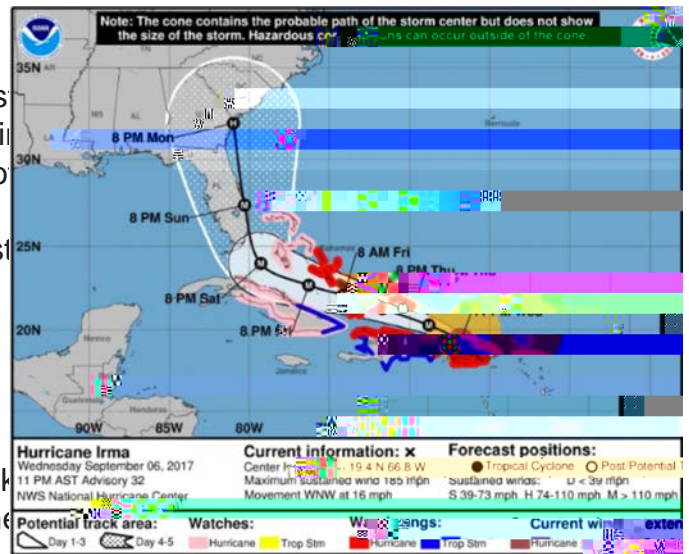
The National Hurricane Center (NHC) uses models and historical data to predict the path of the center of tropical storms and the eye of hurricanes. The forecast cone is a projected path of the hurricane's center within five days. It is important to remember that the effects of a tropical cyclone can be experienced well away from the center of the storm and well outside of the forecast cone. The actual path of the storm's center does not always stay within the cone.

The line in the center of the cone is typically the best estimated path of the threatening storm and can have a margin of error up to 99 miles during a 48-hour outlook. Community members living in any area inside the cone should prepare for some effects from the storm.

If UT lies within the NHC's five-day (120 hour) forecast cone, UT will monitor reports by the NHC, NWS, and county and state agencies regarding the size, intensity, speed and projected place of landfall to assess the projected impact on our area. These reports will guide the University's decision to cancel classes, close or evacuate the campus.

Wind Scale

The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale is a 1 to 5 rating based on a hurricane's sustained wind speed. Hurricanes reaching Category 3 and higher are considered "major hurricanes" because of their potential for significant loss of life and damage. However, Category 1 and 2 storms are still dangerous and require protective and preparation measures.



Example of a storm path projection showing the "Forecast Cone".

Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale

Category 1	Wind: 74-95 mph/119-153 km/h Damage: Some
Category 2	Wind: 96-110 mph/154-177 km/h Damage: Extensive
Category 3	Wind: 111-129 mph/178-208 km/h Damage: Devastating
Category 4	Wind: 130-156 mph/209-251 km/h Damage: Catastrophic
Category 5	Wind: >156 mph/ >252 km/h Damage: Catastrophic

Safe Spartan Tip

Do not focus on the exact forecasted track – the cone represents a probable track and hazardous conditions outside of the cone. Listen to local of cials and University-distributed information. For more information, go to and click on the Tampa Bay area.

Preparing for a Hurricane

Class Cancellations and Campus Closures/Evacuations

Communications regarding class cancellations, campus closures, evacuations and re-openings will be posted to the main UT website and sent to students and employees via phone and email as a UT Alert and/or through global messages. It is important to monitor of cial UT communications during emergencies as conditions can change rapidly. Continue to check your UT email and the UT website for information. Students and employees should also verify they are enrolled in SMART.

Should it be necessary to evacuate the campus, faculty members will communicate with students regarding assignments and, if possible, remain in touch with students via email. Prior to any evacuation, resident students will meet with their resident assistant (RA) to review procedures.

Make a plan

You should begin making a general evacuation plan now. As the storm nears, communicate your evacuation plan to family, friends and coworkers so someone knows where you are. If you change your plan, make sure to communicate the change. Students should have conversations with their families to review their hurricane plans and discuss where they will go in the event the campus is evacuated.

Visit FLgetaplan.org for assistance developing an emergency plan.

Visit FloridaDisaster.org to nd evacuation zones and FEMA.gov to nd ood zones by address.

Disaster Supply Kit

It is important to maintain a disaster supply kit year-round with enough supplies to last 72 hours. Supply kits should include, but are not limited to:

- Water, one gallon per person, per day;
- Non-perishable food;
- Manual can opener;
- Battery-powered or hand crank; AM/FM radio;
- NOAA Weather Radio with extra batteries;
- Flashlight with extra batteries;
- First aid kit;
- Personal hygiene items;
- Blanket;
- Extra clothes and comfortable, closed-toe walking shoes;
- Medications;
- Cash.

Visit ready.gov/kit for more information on putting together a disaster supply kit.

Residence Evacuation Preparation

Take your most important belongings, valuables, and personal documents with you. Students should remember to take course materials with them.

When evacuating, completely empty and unplug your refrigerator and wrap towels around the base to absorb water due to defrosting. Unplug all power cords before leaving. Close and lock your windows tightly. Do not tape your windows. Move any items that may be damaged by water off the oor and cover electronic items with plastic. Remove any trash, and lock the door.

Medications

Pillow, blanket, air mattress and/or cot

Passports and hard-to-replace documents in a secure plastic bag

Cash

Personal and student identifications

Clothing for five to seven days, including socks and sturdy shoes

Personal hygiene items

Quiet games, reading material, music player, headphones and batteries

Flashlight and extra batteries

Keys to your car and residence

First aid kit

Bottled water, snacks and non-perishable nutritious food

Can opener

Food for special dietary needs

Masks/facial coverings

Gloves

Hand sanitizer

Battery-powered or hand crank AM/FM radio

NOAA Weather radio with extra batteries