

Just days after Hurricane Harvey devastated parts of Texas and Louisiana, another storm, Hurricane Irma, has strengthened over the Atlantic Ocean, threatening to batter the Caribbean this week as “an extremely dangerous” Category 5 storm. Please review the information below to be prepared for emergencies in your homes, businesses, schools, and communities.



Hurricane Basics



What

Hurricanes are massive storm systems that form over the water and move toward land. Threats from hurricanes include high winds, heavy rainfall, storm surge, coastal and inland flooding, rip currents, and tornadoes. These large storms are called typhoons in the North Pacific Ocean and cyclones in other parts of the world.

Where

Each year, many parts of the United States experience heavy rains, strong winds, floods, and coastal storm surges from tropical storms and hurricanes. Affected areas include all Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coastal areas and areas over 100 miles inland, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Hawaii, parts of the Southwest, the Pacific Coast, and the U.S. territories in the Pacific. A significant percent of fatalities occur outside of landfall counties with causes due to inland flooding.

When

The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30, with the peak occurring between mid-August and late October. The Eastern Pacific hurricane season begins May 15 and ends November 30.

Basic Preparedness Tips

- Know where to go. If you are ordered to evacuate, know the local hurricane evacuation route(s) to take and have a plan for where you can stay. Contact your local emergency management agency for more information.
- Put together a go-bag: disaster supply kit, including a flashlight, batteries, cash, first aid supplies, medications, water and food for (3) days and copies of your critical information if you need to evacuate
- If you are not in an area that is advised to evacuate and you decide to stay in your home, plan for adequate supplies in case you lose power and water for several days and you are not able to leave due to flooding or blocked roads.
- Make a family emergency communication plan.
- Many communities have text or email alerting systems for emergency notifications. To find out what alerts are available in your area, search the Internet with your town, city, or county name and the word “alerts.”

Hurricane Watch

Hurricane watch = conditions possible within the next 48 hrs. Steps to take:

Review your evacuation route(s) & listen to local officials.

Review the items in your disaster supply kit; and add items to meet the household needs for children, parents, individuals with disabilities or other access and functional needs or pets.

Hurricane Warning

Hurricane warning = conditions are expected within 36 hrs. Steps to take:

Follow evacuation orders from local officials, if given.

Check-in with family and friends by texting or using social media.

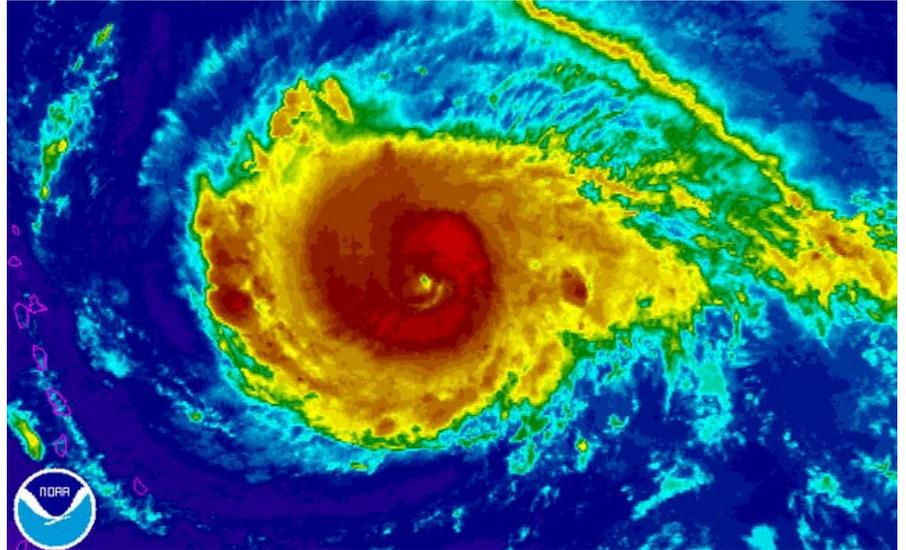
Follow the hurricane timeline preparedness checklist, depending on when the storm is anticipated to hit and the impact that is projected for your location.

When a Hurricane Threatens

Follow the instructions of University Police, Safety Office, and emergency personnel.

Resident students, follow the instructions of Campus Housing and Residence Life staff.

- Stay indoors until advised to exit.
- Stay in interior hallways and keep doors closed.
- 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 when the air may be calm. Do not leave your safety or shelter until advised by emergency personnel. Residential students will be notified by campus residence staff.
- When the “all clear” is given, exit your location with extreme care. Beware of electrical wires, broken glass, and falling or fallen objects.
- Do not enter structures, vehicles, or areas that are damaged; many people are electrocuted after a storm.



A number of hurricanes reach land each year, causing death and massive destruction of property.

Safety is the most important element in your hurricane plan.

Awareness of the hurricane location, intensity, and direction of travel can be obtained from local news and weather stations (see Shareables below).

Preparedness is the key to survival both during and after a hurricane. Preparedness means having and implementing a sound hurricane plan. Preparation for a hurricane involves knowing when to secure property and when to evacuate the threatened area. Surviving a hurricane is possible, if one considers that property is not worth risking life.

Evacuation is the best precaution for surviving any hurricane. Hurricanes usually travel over sea or land masses at a speed that will allow people to evacuate.

Any preparation plan should include the possibility of evacuation.

After a Hurricane

- Listen to local officials for updates and instructions.
- Check-in with family and friends by texting or using social media.
- Return home only when authorities indicate it is safe.
- Watch out for debris and downed power lines.
- Avoid walking or driving through flood waters. Just 6 inches of moving water can knock you down, and one foot of fast-moving water can sweep your vehicle away.
- Avoid flood water as it may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines and may hide dangerous debris or places where the ground is washed away.
- Photograph the damage to your property in order to assist in filing an insurance claim.
- Do what you can to prevent further damage to your property, (e.g., putting a tarp on a damaged roof), as insurance may not cover additional damage that occurs after the storm.

Download the LiveSafe Mobile Safety App! (see below)

The LiveSafe app provides students, faculty, and staff with a direct connection to campus safety so that everyone can easily communicate all their safety needs. Its easy-to-use features help you stay safe every day and enable us to better protect you.