

USF Department of Emergency Management

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# A GUIDE TO SEVERE WEATHER





# DISASTER SUPPLY KIT ESSENTIALS

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Use a waterproof, portable container for your kit and make sure to keep the items in your kit maintained and ready to use when needed.

## **Documents**

- Drivers License/ID card
- Passport
- Social Security card
- Student ID
- Insurance Policies

## **Food and Water (7 Day Supply)**

- One gallon of water per person per day
- Non-perishable foods
- Can opener
- Plastic utensils/napkins
- Items for pets

## **Miscellaneous Items**

- Flashlight
- First-Aid Kit
- Battery-powered or hand crank weather radio (AM/FM)
- Battery powered cell phone charger
- Extra batteries for all battery powered items in your kit
- Change of clothing
- Personal hygiene items
- Blanket
- Cash
- Prescription medications

# Hurricanes

Hurricanes are large, spiraling tropical storms that can pack wind speeds of over 160 mph and unleash more than 2.4 trillion gallons of rain per day. 40% of the hurricanes that occur in the United States hit Florida, so it is critical to be alert and prepared.

## Get a kit.

Maintain a disaster supply kit with enough supplies to last you for seven days. Visit [www.ready.gov/kit](http://www.ready.gov/kit)



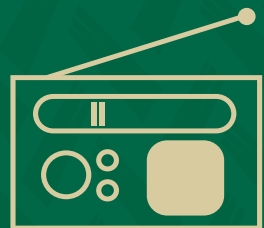
## Make a plan.

Prepare your emergency plan in advance and communicate it with friends and family. Visit [www.flgetaplan.com](http://www.flgetaplan.com)



## Be informed.

Communications regarding campus evacuation, closure, or re-opening will be sent to USF students and employees via email and posted on USF main websites.

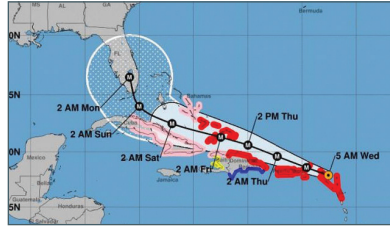


Visit [usf.edu/em](http://usf.edu/em) for more emergency preparedness information.

# UNDERSTANDING THE THREAT

## The Cone of Uncertainty

The cone of uncertainty is a projected path identifying where the hurricane's center will pass within five days. The effects of a tropical cyclone can be experienced well away from the center of the storm and well outside of the cone of uncertainty. The actual path of the storm's center does not always stay within the cone.








## Watch vs Warning

A **watch** means that tropical-storm or hurricane conditions are **possible** within the specified area. Watches are issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm force winds.

A **warning** means that tropical-storm or hurricane conditions are **expected** within the specified area. Warnings are issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm force winds.

## Hurricane Wind Scale

This 1 to 5 rating is based on a storm's sustained wind speed.

<i>Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale</i>	
	<b>Wind: 74 - 95 MPH</b> <b>Damage: Some</b>
	<b>Wind: 96-110 MPH</b> <b>Damage: Extensive</b>
	<b>Wind: 111-129 MPH</b> <b>Damage: Devastating</b>
	<b>Wind: 130-156 MPH</b> <b>Damage: Catastrophic</b>
	<b>Wind: &gt; 156 MPH</b> <b>Damage: Catastrophic</b>

# Tornado

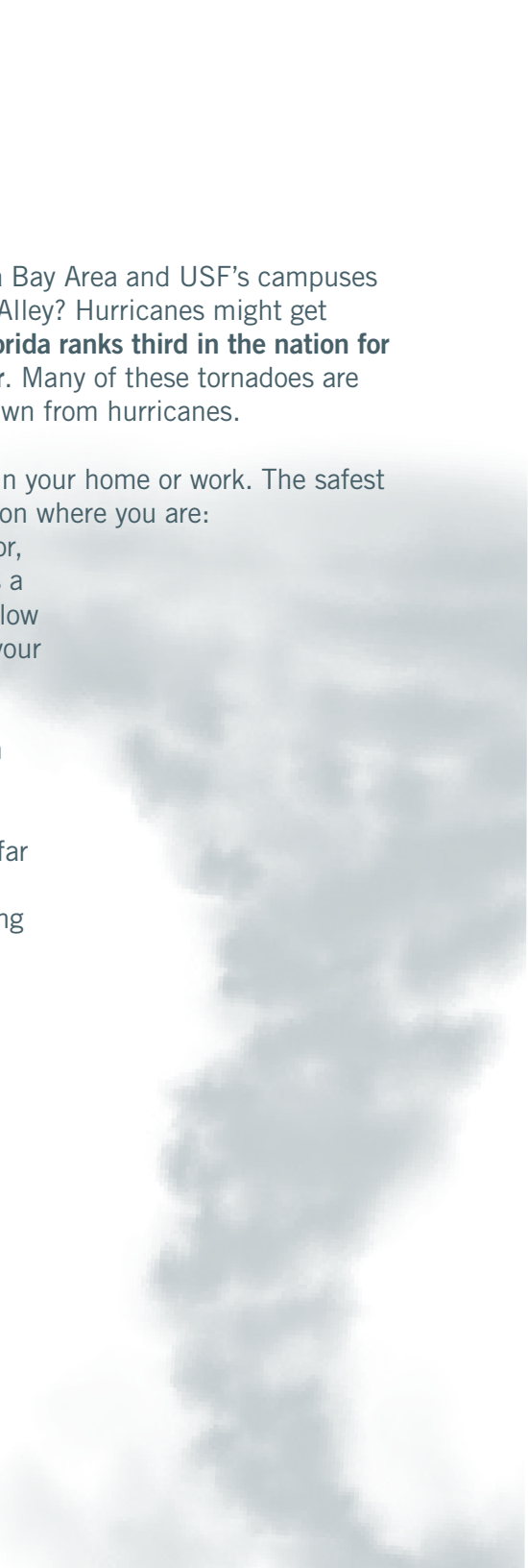
Did you know that the Tampa Bay Area and USF's campuses are in Florida's own Tornado Alley? Hurricanes might get most of the attention, but **Florida ranks third in the nation for number of tornadoes per year**. Many of these tornadoes are waterspouts, which often spawn from hurricanes.

Know where you will shelter in your home or work. The safest place to seek cover depends on where you are:

- A sturdy structure: Interior, windowless room such as a closet or bathroom. Stay low to the ground and cover your body from debris.
- In a car or mobile home: Leave and seek shelter in the nearest building.
- Outdoors without cover nearby: Find low ground far from trees and vehicles, and lay face-down covering your head from debris.

Pay close attention to issued tornado warnings and watches. During a **watch**, conditions can produce a tornado. During a **warning**, a tornado is occurring or is imminent, so take shelter immediately.

For more information on Tornado Safety, visit [www.ready.gov/tornadoes](http://www.ready.gov/tornadoes)



# Lightning

A stylized, light gray lightning bolt graphic that starts at the top right and branches out downwards, extending across the right side of the page.

Lightning is Florida's #1 storm-related killer and leads the nation in number of lightning deaths and injuries. Each year in Florida, more than 400 people are struck by lightning and an average of 7 people are killed.

## **WHEN THUNDER ROARS GO INDOORS!**

All thunderstorms produce lightning and are dangerous. If you hear thunder, you are in danger! Lightning can strike as far as 10 miles away from a storm, so when a storm begins to develop go to a safe place. If a substantial building is unavailable, a hard-topped vehicle with closed windows will also offer good protection.

# Flooding

Anything from a few hours of rain to a storm surge caused by a hurricane can cause water levels to rise, flooding campus sidewalks, roads, and the surrounding community.

## **PREPARE FOR FLOODING WITH THESE TIPS:**

**Know Your Zone** - Find out what flood zone your campus and your home are in. Visit [msc.fema.gov/portal](https://www.msc.fema.gov/portal)

**Watch Your Step** - Flowing water is dangerous, and you should not attempt to cross it. 6 Inches of water can carry you away.

**Obey Evacuation Orders** - This is for your safety and you should follow all evacuation orders. Ignoring evacuation could cost you your life.



# ALERTUSF

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The University of South Florida System maintains a comprehensive **Emergency Notification System** (ENS), called AlertUSF, for the purpose of issuing immediate notification to keep the USF community informed and safe during an emergency situation.

**AlertUSF text messages** are part of the USF Emergency Notification System that allows you to receive emergency updates. All official USF emergency notifications will be sent out through AlertUSF. Faculty, staff, and students are urged to register to receive these text messages. To register, please visit [usf.edu/alertusf](https://usf.edu/alertusf)



[usf.edu/em](https://usf.edu/em)