

HURRICANE SAFETY

FOR LABORATORIES

How to prepare your laboratory for a hurricane

CHEMICAL SAFETY

- Label and cap all chemical containers including waste containers.
- Remove all chemicals from bench tops and open shelving.
- Store water-reactive and toxic chemicals in tightly sealed, waterproof containers.
- Place flammable materials in approved flammable cabinets.
- Move chemicals to windowless rooms, or away from exterior windows.
- Cap gas cylinders and secure to a permanent fixture.
- Refresh spill kits and clearly post their location.

BIOLOGICAL SAFETY

- Consider sending critical samples to offsite storage.
- Fill dewars and cryogen reservoirs.
- Remove all infectious materials from biosafety cabinets, and neutralize or safely store them as appropriate.
- Make arrangements for laboratory animals.

EQUIPMENT

- Empty fume hoods of chemicals and close sashes completely. Fume hoods will not operate if building loses power.
- Unplug all non-essential equipment (e.g. hotplates, magnetic stirrers, heat mantles).
- Use surge protectors to protect sensitive equipment in the event of a power surge.
- Turn refrigerators/freezers to coldest setting.
- Ensure that all bench-mounted gas fixtures are in the off position.
- Move computers and equipment as far from windows as possible and securely cover other equipment with plastic sheeting.
- Backup important computer files.
- Protect lab notebooks in waterproof containers.



SECURITY

- Close and lock all laboratory doors.
- Avoid blocking exits and hallways.
- Update emergency contact information for lab, post on door and give a copy to department.

Laboratory supervisors are responsible for protecting their own equipment and research. It is imperative that personnel prepare and be able to secure their areas. These preparations, as well as maintaining a stockpile of critical supplies, will minimize loss of research and equipment damage in the event of a hurricane.

For assistance or additional information, please contact Environmental Health & Safety and view the USF Hurricane Guide at <https://www.usf.edu/administrative-services/emergency-management/documents/2019-hurricane-guide.pdf>