

# Hurricane Survival Guide for International Students and Scholars

## Pre-storm planning

1. Review USF Hurricane Guide - <http://www.usf.edu/administrative-services/emergency-management/documents/hurricane-guide.pdf>
2. Review the USF Hurricane Preparation information at <https://www.usf.edu/administrative-services/emergency-management/hazards/hurricane.aspx>
3. Register for Alert USF <https://www.usf.edu/administrative-services/emergency-management/programs/emergency-notification-system.aspx>
4. We put all students on the OIS Listserv and will forward university updates to the listserv, the OIS Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/OISatUSF>) and USF World Instagram page (@USFworld).
5. The university will provide updates on the USF website and via Hotline 1-800-992-4231.
6. USF Housing will contact students living on-campus with instructions.
7. Maintain a Disaster Kit. You can use plastic storage boxes with secure lids:
  - a. Important documents - passport, visa, I-20/DS-2019, I-94, EAD card, insurance info, prescriptions, etc., and **store in a waterproof bag/container.**
  - b. Cash
  - c. Flashlight with batteries
  - d. Food and water (see ideas below)
  - e. Clothes, blanket, closed toed shoes
  - f. Radio (power might go out)

## Ideas for Disaster Kit

- Non-perishable food:
  - canned meat, soup, fruit, vegetables (need can opener)
  - crackers
  - cookies, candy
  - peanut butter
  - cereal/ oatmeal/multigrain bars
  - instant coffee and tea
- Ice chest and ice
- First aid kit
- Sun Screen
- Mosquito repellent
- Toilet paper
- Disposable eating utensils, plates, cups, and napkins
- Trash bags
- Non-electronic games or books

## **WHAT TO DO IF A STORM COMES**

### **Storm Approaching**

1. If living off-campus, bring items inside - plants, furniture, bicycles etc.
2. Make or buy ice, then store in a cooler or ice chest.
3. Make sure you have enough cash (ATMs will not work without electricity).
4. Get medications refilled- have a 30-day supply.
- 5. Charge cell phones, laptops, tablets.**
6. Keep car filled with gas, check oil, tires, etc.
7. Wash all your clothes.
8. Cook food that could potentially spoil if power goes out.
9. Decide if you can gather a group of friends together.

### **Storm Confirmed**

1. Shut windows.
2. Pack clothing in case evacuation is necessary.
3. If food still in refrigerator, turn freezer to colder setting.
4. Put textbooks, picture albums, and other special memorabilia in plastic bags.
5. Find safest spot to sit during the storm. It should be an inside walled area with NO windows such as an inside bathroom, underneath stairs or inside a hallway.
  - a. Gather pillows and blankets, emergency kit, food, and water in your safe spot.
6. Unplug electrical items such as a computer and TV.
7. If you have to evacuate take your Disaster Kit with you.

### **During the Storm**

1. Stay calm and remain in your safe spot.
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**

1. Do not go outside until the storm is over.
2. Use caution when walking or driving outside
3. Check for damage at your place.
  - a. If you smell gas, open windows and leave immediately.
  - b. Check for signs of electrical damage such as sparks or frayed wires. Another sign is the smell of something burning.
  - c. Contact apartment maintenance if you have damage.
4. Continue to watch the news or listen to the radio for updates.
5. Check USF website or emergency line for updates – 1-800-992-4231.
6. OIS will continue to update you via listserve, Facebook, and Instagram.