

HURRICANES AND TORNADOES

What should I know about hurricanes?

- Hurricane season starts June 1, and ends November 30th.
- When a hurricane warning is issued by the National Weather Service, The President or designee may authorize the University to close.
- Official closings will be announced by the University to local newspapers, radio and television stations, the FAU Webmaster and the hurricane hotline that serves all campuses.

HOTLINE

General Line (all campuses): 888.8FAUOWL (888-832-8695)

What are important storm terms to know?

Tropical depression – an organized system of thunderstorms with a defined circulation and top sustained winds of less than 39 mph.

Tropical storm – an organized system with a defined circulation and top sustained winds between 39-74 mph.

Tropical storm watch –conditions are possible in the specified area of the watch within 48 hours.

Tropical storm warning –conditions are expected in the affected area within 36 hours.

Hurricane – An intense tropical weather system with a well-defined circulation and sustained wind speed of 74 mph or higher.

Hurricane watch –conditions are possible within the specified area within 48 hours.

Hurricane warning –conditions are expected in the specified area within 36 hours.

What do I do to prepare for a hurricane (general)?

- REVIEW FAU and private residence hurricane plans to minimize potential damage in case of a strike.
- MONITOR news and weather reports.

What do I do to prepare for a hurricane (students)?

- MONITOR the hotline telephone number and the “Hurricane Information” website.

What do I do to prepare for a hurricane (residential students)?

- HAVE emergency supplies and complete supply kit, including shelter kit if necessary.
- EVACUATE University Housing, if there is an order for campus/University closing.

Transportation to Red Cross shelters will be provided for residents and those requiring special transportation arrangements due to a physical disability. Specific pick-up locations will be announced on posters and flyers throughout the University Housing facilities. Locations of shelters can be found at the FAU Web Site and the EH&S Web Site at www.fau.edu/ehs.

What do I do to prepare for a hurricane (employees including essential personnel)?

- FAMILIARIZE yourself with your departmental plan.
- HAVE your emergency supply kit ready.

Each department is responsible for developing a written emergency response plan and providing a copy of the plan to staff. Copies of plans can also be obtained by calling EH&S (561) 297-3129.

- MONITOR NOAA Weather radios.

EH&S also distributes NOAA Weather Radios to all buildings and building/area supervisors in order to provide current weather information to staff.

Once a campus has been closed, only those designated as essential personnel are allowed to enter. Please visit <http://www.fau.edu/financial/ep.php> for more information.

What should I know about tornadoes?

- The most active months for tornadoes are June through August during the afternoon's buildup of heat in the lower atmosphere.
- However no season or time of day is exempt from this powerful and deadly weather phenomenon.
- Land falling tropical storms and hurricanes also generate tornadoes.
- Tornadoes can last from a few seconds to more than an hour.
- The path can be from a few dozen yards to a few hundred yards.
- Using the actual damage to determine the tornado's wind speed is the basis of the **Fujita Scale (F-scale)**:

What are important F-Scale terms to know?

F0 GALE	(40-72 mph)	Tree branches broken off. Shallow rooted trees uprooted
F1 MODERATE	(73-112 mph)	Peels surface off roofs. Mobile homes overturned.
F2 SIGNIFICANT	(113-157 mph)	Roofs torn off frame houses. Large trees snapped or uprooted.
F3 SEVERE	(158-206 mph)	Roofs/ walls torn off. Trains overturned. Cars thrown.
F4 DEVASTATING	(207-260 mph)	Well-built homes leveled.
F5 INCREDIBLE	(261-318 mph)	Homes lifted off foundations and thrown. Cars thrown as far as 100 meters.

What is a tornado watch?

- This is issued by the National Weather Service when conditions, which may produce tornadoes or severe thunderstorms, are present or developing.

What should I do during a tornado watch?

- CONTINUE normal activities, but have a safety plan in mind, and be ready to implement it, if the warning is issued.

What is a tornado warning?

- This is issued when a tornado or severe thunderstorm has been detected or sighted.
- The warning will tell you the location and movement of the severe weather.

What should I do during a tornado warning?

- IMPLEMENT your safety plan immediately if you are in the path of the storm.
- TAKE SHELTER if you see or hear a tornado or threatening weather approaching. There may not be time for an official warning.

What is a good tornado safety plan?

- DESIGNATE a tornado safe area in your building. It should be an interior room without windows.
- PUT AS MANY WALLS AS POSSIBLE between you and the outside.
- GET UNDER heavy furniture.
- COVER HEAD with arms and hands.
- If outdoors, CROUCH in a low spot. COVER HEAD with arms and hands. DO NOT get under an overpass or bridge. DO NOT seek shelter under a tree.
- GET OUT of a car immediately and seek shelter. NEVER try to outrun a tornado, they can change directions quickly.

If the emergency is other severe weather:

See Severe Weather section.

For more information on shelter in place or emergency evacuation:

See Shelter-In-Place section or Emergency Evacuation section.