

## Know the Difference

A **HURRICANE WATCH** issued for your part of the coast indicates the possibility that you could experience hurricane conditions within 36 hours.

This watch should trigger your disaster plan, and protective measures should be initiated, especially those actions that require extra time, such as packing your computer equipment, evacuating, etc.

A **HURRICANE WARNING** issued for your part of the coast indicates that sustained winds of at least 74 mph are expected within 24 hours or less.

Once this warning has been issued, you should be in the process of completing protective actions and deciding the safest location to be during the storm.

## Hurricane Basics



Hurricane hazards come in many forms: storm surge, high winds, tornadoes and flooding. This means it is important for you to have a plan that includes all of these hazards. The first and most important thing anyone should do when facing a hurricane threat is to use common sense.

Hurricanes are classified based on their wind speed with the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale. This scale is commonly used to rate the damage potential of a hurricane.

The categories are:

- **Tropical Storm—winds 39–73 mph**
- **Category 1 Hurricane—winds 74–95 mph (64–82 knots)**  
No real damage to buildings. Damage to unanchored mobile homes. Some damage to poorly constructed signs. Also, some coastal flooding and minor pier damage. Examples: Irene 1999 and Allison 1995
- **Category 2 Hurricane—winds 96–110 mph (83–95 knots)**  
Some damage to building roofs, doors and windows. Considerable damage to mobile homes. Flooding damages piers. Small craft in unprotected moorings may break their moorings. Some trees blown down. Examples: Francis 2004, Bonnie 1998, Georges (FL and LA) 1998 and Gloria 1985
- **Category 3 Hurricane—winds 111–130 mph (96–113 knots)**  
Some structural damage to small residences and utility buildings. Large trees blown down. Mobile homes and poorly built signs destroyed. Flooding near the coast destroys smaller structures with larger structures damaged by floating debris. Terrain may be flooded well inland. Examples: Ivan 2004, Jeanne 2004, Keith 2000, Fran 1996, Opal 1995, Alicia 1983 and Betsy 1965
- **Category 4 Hurricane—winds 131–155 mph (114–135 knots)**  
More extensive curtainwall failures with some complete roof structure failure on small residences. Major erosion of beach areas. Terrain may be flooded well inland. Examples: Katrina 2005, Charley 2004, Hugo 1989 and Donna 1960
- **Category 5 Hurricane—winds 156+ mph (135+ knots)**  
Complete roof failure on many residences and industrial buildings. Some complete building failures with small utility buildings blown over or away. Flooding causes major damage to lower floors of all structures near the shoreline. Massive evacuation of residential areas may be required. Examples: Andrew (FL) 1992, Camille 1969 and Labor Day 1935

For additional information, visit:

[noaa.org](http://noaa.org) (storm info) • [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) (preparation/safety tips) • [fema.gov](http://fema.gov) (relief info)

## Atlantic Tropical Storm Names for 2021

Ana  
Bill  
Claudette  
Danny  
Elsa  
Fred  
Grace  
Henri  
Ida  
Julian  
Kate  
Larry  
Mindy  
Nicholas  
Odette  
Peter  
Rose  
Sam  
Teresa  
Victor  
Wanda



## HURRICANE SEASON 2021: TIPS TO BE PREPARED



PREPARATION is your first step to SAFETY



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## Frequently Asked Questions

### How does Florida Tech communicate the institution's plans related to a hurricane?

- The latest information will be available on the institution's homepage (floridatech.edu) and emailed to students.
- Hurricane advisories are numbered so students can keep track of the latest information available from Florida Tech.
- Information will also be distributed through safety alerts that students can sign up for at [floridatech.edu/security/safety-alerts](http://floridatech.edu/security/safety-alerts).

### What process does the university take to make decisions regarding campus closure/class cancellations?

- When weather forecasts indicate a hurricane may impact the Melbourne area, the university's Hurricane Planning Committee is assembled. This committee includes representation from departments such as the university president, meteorology, campus security, facilities, housing, residence life and academic affairs.
- The committee starts meeting several days in advance of the predicted hurricane making landfall and meets multiple times a day (if needed) as updated information becomes available on the strength and path of the hurricane.
- If the committee decides that severe weather results in the need to cancel classes, this information will be posted on the university homepage and emailed out through safety alerts.
- Once a hurricane passes through the area, the committee meets again to assess if updates are

needed regarding plans to reopen the campus/class cancellations. These decisions are often impacted by road accessibility and power outages.

### What items should I have if a hurricane is predicted to impact the Melbourne area?

- Secure important documents (passport/social security card) in waterproof containers or sealed plastic bags
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Paper plates, paper cups and plenty of utensils
- Supply of water, ideally about three gallons of water per person
- Medications
- Nonperishable food that can be prepared without the use of electricity
- Cash
- Full tank of gas in your personal car
- Battery-operated weather radio
- Games, schoolwork or other activities to keep yourself occupied

### What services are available before and after the hurricane makes potential landfall?

- Campus Security will remain staffed during the storm.
- Panther Dining will stay open until approximately 12 hours before the hurricane is expected to make landfall. As soon as the storm passes, Panther Dining will reopen as soon as it is safe for staff to travel to campus.

- Prior to closing, Panther Dining will issue hurricane snack packs to students and offer to help students assemble their own to-go meals that can be consumed while the storm passes through the Melbourne area. Residence Life staff will attempt to let students know when Panther Dining Hall has reopened after the storm, as power outages may limit email communication to students.
- After the hurricane passes through the Melbourne area, Facilities staff will return to campus to assess if there was damage sustained during the storm and start removing any debris.

### Are there any special steps students need to take to prepare for a hurricane?

- Students are encouraged to communicate with their parents regarding their plans of where they plan to reside during the time the hurricane is projected to make landfall in the Melbourne area.
- Students are also expected to complete the Hurricane Location Plan form. This electronic form will be posted on the main Florida Tech website and allows students to indicate where they plan to stay during the hurricane. This information is provided to Campus Security in the event they need to get in contact with a student.
- Students are encouraged to unplug electronic devices (besides refrigerators) and remove personal items from the floors.
- Students should not tape residence hall windows.
- If students vacate their room, care should be taken when returning to their residence regarding the consumption of items in refrigerators/freezers as power outages might have caused temperature changes in these items.

## NORMAL GRIEF REACTIONS AFTER THE HURRICANE

**There are a variety of reactions that one can experience during and after a hurricane or other natural disaster.**

### These include:

- Cognitive—confusion, worry, intrusive thoughts and images, etc.
- Emotional—shock, sadness, fear, anger, numbness, irritability, guilt and shame, etc.
- Social—withdrawal from others, etc.
- Physiological—fatigue, sleep difficulties, increased heart rate, stomachaches/headaches, etc.
- Some may experience courage, optimism, mobilization, social connectedness, alertness, increased energy and a readiness to respond.

### Some coping tools include:

- Talk to others for support.
- Try to maintain your routine and focus on something practical that you can do now to manage the situation better.
- Engage in pleasant activities and positive distracting activities (i.e., hobbies, reading, sports, etc.)
- Use relaxation methods (i.e., breathing exercises, meditation, calming self-talk, soothing music, etc.)
- Practice self-care (i.e., adequate rest, healthy meals, etc.)

**If you are concerned about your reactions, contact the Student Counseling Center for support at 321-674-8050.**