Hurricane season is June 1–Nov. 30!

PREPARATION is your first step to SAFETY

Dean of Students
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For additional information, visit:
noaa.org (storm info) • redcross.org (preparation/safety tips) • fema.gov (relief info)
**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 out 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 which students can sign-up for at 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 their 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. The information from this form 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.

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**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.)
- Utilize self-care (i.e., adequate rest, healthy meals, etc.)

If you are concerned about your own reactions, please contact the student counseling center (CAPS) for support at 321-674-8050.