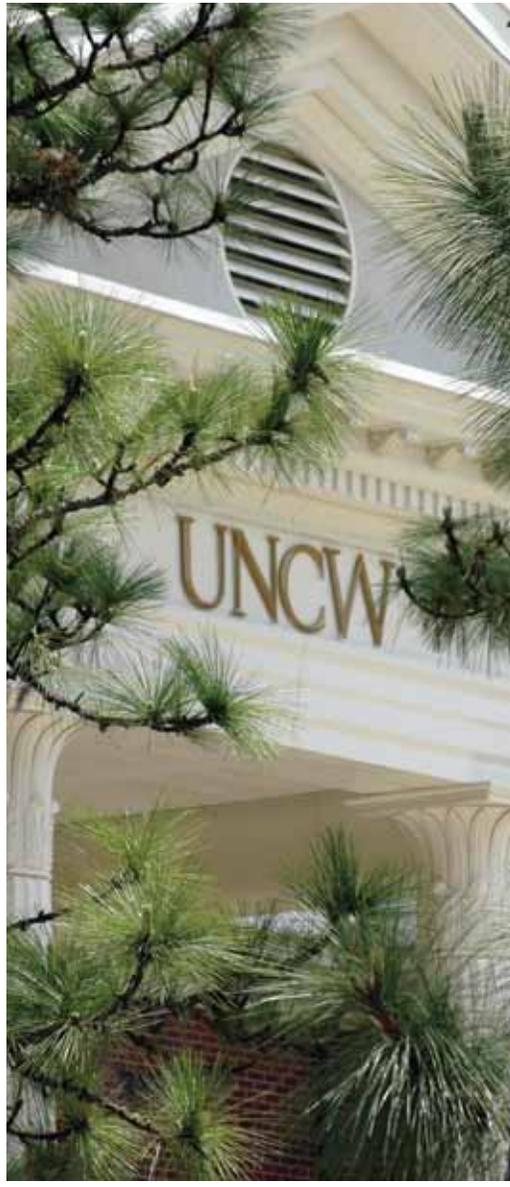




UNIVERSITY *of* NORTH CAROLINA WILMINGTON

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS INFORMATION



# HURRICANES

University officials closely monitor tropical depressions, tropical storms and hurricanes throughout hurricane season. Detailed tracking begins early in the development of a storm.

Campus officials are in constant contact with local, county and state emergency managers throughout the storm. If a mandatory evacuation is issued for a hurricane:

- Students will be allowed **6-8 hours of safe driving time** in daylight hours before the expected arrival of 40 mile per hour winds.
- Students who are not traveling to their permanent residences are expected to **notify their parents of their whereabouts.**
- The Office of the Dean of Students (ODOS) will **coordinate temporary housing** for those students who are unable to travel home. Students should immediately contact ODOS at 910.962.3119 if they need housing.
- **Police**, other emergency responders and maintenance workers will continue to be on duty around the clock during storms.

Remember, it could take several days to provide a safe environment on campus after a major hurricane. Students should not return to UNCW until it is deemed safe.

## CAMPUS EVACUATION

A wide-spread emergency, such as a severe hurricane or large-scale public health emergency, may require an evacuation of the entire campus. Understand the different types of campus evacuations:

### Voluntary Evacuation

- **Students are encouraged**, but not required, to leave campus for a safer location.
- **Classes are officially canceled** and the grading and attendance policies are suspended.

### Mandatory Evacuation

- **Students are required** to evacuate residence halls and leave campus for a safer location. All residence halls will be locked.
- **The campus will close** soon after a mandatory evacuation is issued.
- **Students are encouraged** to go either to their own home or to a friend's home for the duration of the evacuation.

## CLASSES CANCELLED VS. UNIVERSITY CLOSED

Depending on the severity of the emergency, UNCW may choose to cancel classes while maintaining daily operations on campus.

### Classes Cancelled

- **Set period of time** when classes will not take place at UNCW.
- **Grading and attendance policies are suspended.**

### University Closed

- **All business operations will cease.**
- **No UNCW students**, faculty or staff will be allowed on campus unless designated as emergency personnel.
- **Entrances will be blocked** and all campus services will stop until the university is reopened.
- **If necessary**, UNCW may keep open portions of the university for business operations.

### University Reopening

- **Students**, faculty, staff and community traffic will be allowed back on campus.
- **Some or all** business operations and processes will resume.
- **Classes** may or may not resume.
- **Residence halls** may or may not remain closed.
- **If necessary**, UNCW may only reopen portions of the university for business operations.





## **EMERGENCY INFORMATION**

In the event of an emergency UNCW will notify students, faculty and staff through the UNCW Alert emergency notification system.

Below are some of the tools UNCW uses to communicate during an emergency situation. The use of each tool will vary based on the nature, duration and severity of an emergency.

### **EMERGENCY TEXT AND VOICE MESSAGES**

Information may be disseminated to the cell phones of students, faculty and staff that are registered for this service. Mass text or voice messages will not be sent in every emergency situation.

### **BLAST EMAILS**

Messages may be sent to all students, faculty and staff campus email addresses.

### **EMERGENCY INFORMATION HOTLINE**

Up-to-date information on a campus emergency can be accessed via hotline locally at 910.962.3991 or toll free at 888.657.5751.

### **EMERGENCY INFORMATION WEBSITE**

Situation updates, instructions, emergency policies and related information will be posted at [www.uncw.edu/alert](http://www.uncw.edu/alert).

### **UNIVERSITY HOMEPAGE [www.uncw.edu](http://www.uncw.edu)**

Updates will be posted regularly and an emergency information banner may be activated.

### **THE SEAHAWK SIREN SYSTEM**

The outdoor warning system consists of five strategically placed campus sirens that may be used when the majority of the UNCW community needs to shelter-in-place due to a severe emergency.

For more information about the siren, visit [www.uncw.edu/siren](http://www.uncw.edu/siren)

*The hotline and website are excellent ways for Seahawk families and friends to monitor campus emergencies.*



# SEVERE WEATHER

## TORNADOS

Tornados are most likely to occur between 3 p.m. and 9 p.m., but can happen at any time. In the southern states, the peak season for occurrences is March through May. More than 80 percent of all tornados are weak tornados, with a lifetime of 1-10+ minutes and winds less than 110 mph.

### During a tornado watch:

Stay tuned to local media, the UNCW web page, and the UNCW emergency hotline for weather alerts and emergency instructions.

### During a tornado warning:

If a tornado is sighted approaching the campus:

- **Go to the interior hallway** on the lowest floor, if time permits. If time does not permit, go to the safest area of your class room or office furthest away from the doors and windows.
- **Avoid windows**, auditoriums, gymnasiums or other structures with wide, free-span roofs.
- **Take shelter** underneath a desk or any heavy furniture available.

### Shelter-in-Place

Campus emergencies such as tornados, hazardous materials incidents and active shooter incidents may require shelter indoors for safety. The Seahawk Warning Siren System will sound if an emergency requires sheltering-in-place. Take the following steps if you hear the siren:

- **Take shelter indoors.** Close windows and doors.
- **Seek information:**  
**Call:** 910.962.3991  
**Check:** email and other campus communications  
**Visit:** [www.uncw.edu](http://www.uncw.edu) or [www.uncw.edu/alert](http://www.uncw.edu/alert)  
**Watch:** any cable TV channel on campus
- **Wait for an "all clear"** siren or message.



Wilmington's low-lying coastal environment can be prone to heavy rainfall and flooding at times.

Follow these tips to stay safe:

### Traveling to campus:

- **Leave extra time** to make commutes.
- **Do not drive** through standing water
- **Do not circumvent barricades** on campus. They are for your safety.
- **Use your best judgment** and notify instructors or employers if you are concerned about traveling to campus. Faculty and staff should refer to the Adverse Weather Policy.

### Once on campus:

- **Relocate vehicles** from flood-prone areas.
- **Use alternate entrances** to campus to avoid flood-prone areas, including the intersections of Hurst Dr. and College Rd. and Hamilton Dr. and MacMillan Ave.
- **Park on the second level** or higher of the parking garage.
- **Avoid pedestrian crossing** at the intersection of Reynolds Dr. and Cahill Dr. Use Chancellor's Walk instead.

## FIRE SAFETY

The responsibility of living away from home includes personal fire safety.

- **Learn** each campus building's evacuation plan.
- **Participate in fire drills** as if they were the real thing.
- **Activate the fire alarm** and evacuate the building immediately if you discover a fire or smell smoke.
- **Check** your room door before opening by using the back of your hand. Do not open the door if the handle is hot.
- **Stay in your room** and seal the base of the door with a towel or sheet.
- **Call 911.**
- **Turn on your room lights** and raise the blinds.
- **Check for smoke** and fire outside your window. If it is safe to do so, open your window and hang a sheet outside to alert firefighters of your location.
- **Stop, drop and roll** if your clothes catch on fire. Cover your face and roll from side to side until the flames are smothered.



## PUBLIC HEALTH

### Pandemic Flu

New flu viruses, such as the H1N1 influenza virus, create a greater threat for a pandemic.

- **Get your flu shot!**
- **Wash your hands.** Many germs spread through human contact, so wash your hands frequently.
- **Practice good cough and sneeze etiquette** by covering your mouth and nose when you cough and sneeze. Use tissues to trap germs.
- **Stay away from people who are sick** or not feeling well. Healthy adults infected with the virus may infect others beginning one day before symptoms develop and days after becoming sick.
- **Stay home if you are sick.** It is better for you to get well and prevent the spread of the virus to others.
- **Go to Student Health Center.**



## BE PREPARED

### Register for UNCWAlert

Students, faculty and staff can sign up for emergency text messages and voicemails by logging into mySeaPort. Click "Register to Receive UNCW Emergency Texts on your Cell Phone" on the left side of the page, enter the requested information and click "Submit."

## BUILDING EVACUATION

Some campus emergencies, including gas leaks and building fires, may require building evacuation. During a building evacuation, follow these steps:

- **Calmly evacuate the building** when instructed by fire alarm or other alert notification method.
- **Retreat to a safe place** outside of the building.
- **Identify a location** where you and your co-workers/classmates will check-in with each other.
- **Remain in your safe location** until everyone is accounted for and notify emergency responders if you think someone may be trapped.
- **Do not re-enter the building** until emergency personnel determine it is safe.

## QUICK CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

### EMERGENCY 911

#### UNCW Police

Non-Emergency 910.962.2222

#### Emergency Information Hotline

Toll Free 888.657.5751

Local 910.962.3991

#### Emergency Management (EH&S Department)

Non-Emergency 910.962.3057

#### UNCW Safety Videos

(right menu on page)

[www.uncw.edu/ba/safety](http://www.uncw.edu/ba/safety)

#### UNCW Alert

[www.uncw.edu/alert](http://www.uncw.edu/alert)

#### Emergency Management

[www.uncw.edu/emergencyandsafety](http://www.uncw.edu/emergencyandsafety)

#### Student Health Center

[www.uncw.edu/stuaff/healthservices](http://www.uncw.edu/stuaff/healthservices)

#### National Weather Service

[www.nws.noaa.gov](http://www.nws.noaa.gov)



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