

Hurricane Guide for International Students

Hurricane season usually runs from June through the end of November. Hurricanes can be dangerous and should be taken seriously. Even though Wilmington may not have a hurricane this season, it is *strongly advised* to be prepared.

In the event a serious storm occurs, students may be required to evacuate the university. Students should monitor the UNCW homepage and local media for updates. Students, particularly those without access to vehicles, need to give serious consideration to the evacuation process.

Are you prepared for a Hurricane?

Pre-storm planning

1. Contact friends, roommates, your Host Family, and Student Mentor to secure a place to stay in case the university is evacuated. If you live on-campus, you must notify your RA where you will stay while the university is evacuated. If you live off-campus, you must notify the OIP if you evacuate your home—we need to know where you'll be staying and have a way to get in contact with you (email, phone, address).
2. If you can't find a place to stay, call the Office of the Dean of Students at 910-962-3119 so they can secure a place for you to stay. If you need to leave a message, be sure to leave your name, room number, residence hall and phone number so they can return your call.
3. Gather important documents such as passport, visa, I-20, DS-2019, I-94, insurance information, prescriptions, etc., and store in a water-proof bag/container. (Make copies of everything and store separately from originals!) Make sure to keep the documents available in case of an emergency.
4. Stock up on supplies: non-perishable food, water, batteries, radio, flashlights, candles, hand operated can-opener, etc.
5. Make sure you have enough cash (ATMs and credit cards will not work without electricity).
6. Charge all cell phone batteries. Get medications refilled- have a 30-day supply.
7. Keep car filled with gas, check oil, tires, etc.

If a storm hits

1. Stay calm.
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 a hurricane

1. Wait until an area is declared safe before entering.
2. Check or make sure your RA/landlord checks gas, water, electrical lines and appliances for damage; avoid loose or dangling wires and power lines.
3. Stay away from riverbanks, bayous, streams, flooded roads and washed-out bridges until a potential flooding has past.
4. Watch out for animals, especially poisonous snakes that may have come into buildings with floodwaters.
5. Watch for loose plaster, drywall and ceilings that could fall.
6. Avoid drinking or preparing food with tap water until you are certain it is not contaminated.
7. Continue to watch the news or listen to the radio for updates.

Emergency Numbers

UNCW Police

910-962-2222

City of Wilmington Police

9-911 (from a UNCW phone) / 911 from any other phone

UNCW Information Center 910-962-3841

Office of International Programs 910-962-3685

Common Terms & Definitions Used

1. Tropical Disturbance

A moving area of thunderstorms originating in the tropics and maintaining its identity for 24 hours or more.

2. Tropical Depression

An organized system of thunderstorms with a constant wind speed of 38 (miles per hour).

3. Tropical Storm

An organized system of strong thunderstorms with a defined counterclockwise circulation and a constant wind speed that ranges from 39-73 mph.

4. Hurricane

An intense tropical weather system with a pronounced rotary circulation and a constant wind speed of 74 mph or more. A hurricane has three components that include wind, heavy rains, and a storm surge.

5. Storm Surge

A large dome of salt water often 50-100 miles wide that sweeps across the coastline near where the eye of the storm crosses the coast. The storm surge is the greatest threat to life and property along the immediate coast.

6. Hurricane Alert

Issued when the threat of a hurricane is possible within 68 hours.

7. Hurricane Watch

Issued when the threat of a hurricane is possible within a 24-36 hour period. Hurricane conditions are possible in the specified area of the watch.

8. Hurricane Warning

Issued when hurricane conditions are expected within 24 hours or less. Immediate action should be taken to protect life and property.

9. Eye of the storm

Direct center of the storm, usually 20-30 miles in diameter.

10. Storm classification (Saffir-Simpson Scale) – to make comparisons of hurricanes easier, and to make the predicted hazards of approaching hurricanes clearer to emergency forces, hurricanes use a disaster-potential scale, which assigns storms to five categories. The winds are used in the determination of the category:

Category 1 storm - a storm intensity classification where wind speed is 74-95 mph, damage is typically minimal and the storm surge is 4 to 7 feet,

Category 2 storm - a storm intensity classification where wind speed is 96-110 mph, damage is typically moderate and the storm surge is 6 to 12 feet,

Category 3 storm - a storm intensity classification where wind speed is 111-130 mph, damage is typically extensive and the storm surge is 9 to 18 feet,

Category 4 storm - a storm intensity classification where wind speed is 131-155 mph, damage is typically extreme and the storm surge is 13 to 24 feet,

Category 5 storm - a storm intensity classification where wind speed is 156 mph and greater, damage is typically catastrophic and the storm surge is in excess of 18 feet.