

# PREPARING FOR THE STORM

Dear Parents,

Occasionally, hurricanes can be an unfortunate reality at the University of Miami. Did you know that is how we got our nickname? Hurricane season occurs annually from June 1st through November 30th, and the University has established procedures to keep students safe. The purpose of this letter is to provide important emergency information for you in the event that the University is threatened by a hurricane.

In addition, this letter provides information and resources to help you develop a personal hurricane evacuation plan. Depending upon the anticipated severity of a storm, the University of Miami may be required by Miami-Dade County to evacuate its campuses (category three hurricane or higher). While a major hurricane is not a common occurrence, it is imperative that you and your child develop a personal evacuation plan and be ready to implement that plan, if necessary..

## STAYING INFORMED

When a Tropical Storm or Hurricane threatens South Florida, the University will notify students about cancelations, closures, and the possibility of evacuations by means of Storm Alert emails and by an Emergency Notification Network (ENN) alert. The University's **Emergency Preparedness website** is always the best place for parents to obtain the latest information, and the **Emergency Information Hotline** will also be activated to answer questions.

**Emergency Preparedness Website:** [www.miami.edu/prepare](http://www.miami.edu/prepare)

**Emergency Information Hotline:** 1-800-227-0354 or 305-284-5151 (if calling from overseas)

## PLANNING AHEAD

The University has a wealth of emergency preparedness resources that you and your student can access at [www.miami.edu/prepare](http://www.miami.edu/prepare) to assist you in planning:

At a minimum, emergency plans should address the following:

- **Communications:** Designate an out-of-state relative or friend to serve as a family contact.
- **Supplies:** Build or purchase an emergency kit with all the supplies needed for 3-5 days.
- **Protecting Valuables:** Purchase rental insurance for and take pictures/inventory of personal possessions.
- **Protecting Data:** Back up computer data and have your student take a copy whenever evacuating campus.
- **Transportation:** Keep cars filled with gas and check all fluids and tire pressures (including spare). Know how your student will evacuate and the route to be taken if an evacuation is ordered. During an ordered evacuation, transportation will be provided to local airports and hurricane shelters.
- **Shelter:** Hurricane shelters are designed for safety, not comfort. Accommodations are extremely basic. Students who choose to stay in a local shelter should be prepared to sleep on the floor of a common area. Food and water will be provided, but we recommend that students bring a sleeping bag or blanket, a pillow, snacks and all prescription medications.

## EVACUATION

When an evacuation is ordered, students will be expected to comply immediately. The University will cancel all classes/events and ask students to leave campus by a specific time and date. The University will provide as much notice as possible to help students arrange for their own safety and welfare. Transportation from campus will be provided to local airports. Most students travel to a designated relative or friend's home within a 250-mile radius of South Florida, but outside the anticipated impact zone. Students who cannot evacuate on their own will be expected to self-identify to University officials and will be transported to a University-operated or county shelter.

## RECOVERY

In the immediate aftermath of a storm, communications may be disrupted. Again, please check our Emergency Website or Hotline for the latest information. All students should attempt to contact family and friends immediately by any available means (telephone, text, email, social media, etc.).

If the University is evacuated, **STUDENTS SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO RETURN TO CAMPUS** until instructed to do so via an ENN Alert or the Emergency Preparedness Website. To assist the University in the reunification and recovery process, students will be asked to check-in and to indicate their whereabouts by accessing the Recover website at <https://recover.miami.edu/> or by calling the Emergency Information Hotline.

## ACT NOW

We encourage you and your student to develop your personal emergency plan now, not when the threat of a storm is imminent, and be ready to implement that plan in case South Florida and the University of Miami are threatened by a storm.

If you have any questions, please contact the University Of Miami's Office Of Emergency Management at 305-284-8005 or [oem@miami.edu](mailto:oem@miami.edu).

Sincerely,



Patricia A. Whitely  
Vice President for Student Affairs



Scott Burnotes  
Director of Emergency Management