2013 Hurricane Season

Student

WHAT TO DO BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER A HURRICANE

August, 2013

St. Thomas University is committed to providing a safe and caring environment during an emergency situation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the Student Affairs Office at 305-628-6554.

Student Checklist
Hurricane Watch – 48 hours prior to storm arrival

The University's Crisis Management Team will monitor the storm's progress and you will be informed by Student Affairs Staff if a hurricane watch has been issued by the National Hurricane Center. If a hurricane warning is issued, residents who can leave the Campus for home or a friend's house will be encouraged to do so. Prior to leaving, students must do the following:

- Inform Student Affairs of the name of the person with whom you will be staying, as well as the telephone number and address. This information will not be released to anyone except parents or guardians whom you identify in writing.*

- Prepare your residence hall room by following instructions provided for a hurricane warning.

- Contact family and provide them with the contact information of the place where you will be staying.

- Gas up your vehicle.

- Refill prescription drugs.

- Obtain a supply of cash.

- Back up the hard drive on your computer.

*In the event of a mandatory evacuation, all residence hall students whose options for travel are limited will be provided transportation to an American Red Cross designated emergency shelter.

Hurricane Warning – 36 hours prior to storm's arrival

- Status upgrade to Hurricane Warning occurs when it is probable that a storm will hit this area. Residence halls may be evacuated when a warning is issued. If this occurs, informational meetings will be held in each residence hall. IT IS MANDATORY AND EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT STUDENTS ATTEND THE MEETINGS AND COMPLY WITH ALL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.

- Students who reside off-campus should seek shelter at this time.

During the Hurricane

- No faculty or staff should remain on campus during the hurricane unless they are designated emergency personnel who must remain on campus for the duration of the storm.

- Stay tuned to local news and the STU Hurricane Hotline (1-877-STU-PLAN/1-877-788-7526) for the latest weather conditions and information on the university's operations (i.e., closed or opened).

After the Hurricane

Once the HURRICANE WARNING has been lifted, follow local broadcast, radio and print media outlets for campus re-opening announcements, check the St. Thomas University homepage (www.stu.edu) or call the hurricane hotline (1-877-STU-PLAN / 1-877-788-7526) for updated information.

COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES

Alerting the Media

South Florida Media will be continually alerted to St. Thomas University's operational status (i.e., weather-related closing, opening and other updates). The Office of Marketing & Communications will be the sole liaison between the University and all media outlets. The first person representing this office with media is the Chief Marketing Officer.

Internal Communications

As events develop, the Office of Marketing & Communications will issue a series of global emails giving information on the status of the storm, official closing times and any special instructions. A broadcast voicemail message will be sent to the University community through Ruth Esteras or designated OIT staff member. Information will also be posted on the University homepage (www.stu.edu) through the STU web-master or designated OIT staff member.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Emergency Update Phone Number:
877-STU-PLAN/877-788-7526

Security

In the event there is an issue requiring security, Captain Ronald Foster or his Designee will be available to answer questions. The main number for the St. Thomas University gatehouse is **305-628-6500.**
If this becomes a non-working number, the emergency cellular number is **786-295-9692.**

Communications

The Office of Marketing & Communications (OMC) will proactively interact with County Communications Office in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach to ensure STU openings, closings and developments are included in press releases or related media bulletins issued by that particular office. OMC will also liaise with PR Newswire central offices in Washington, D.C. to be included in the news wire service agency free bulletins that are disseminated to print, radio, TV, electronic media outlets that include social media sites, twitter, search engine news and all media web sites as a free public service, expanding STU's reach. All three counties receive ongoing feeds from PR Newswire.

The OMC will contact local media requesting announcement of St. Thomas hurricane updates and campus hours.

www.stu.edu
WPBT PBS – 2
WLRN-TV 17
WBFS-TV 33
Ch 41 – AmericaTeve
Diario las Americas

Online:
www.miamiherald.com
http://www.nhc.noaa.gov

Beverly S. Bachrach, Vice President for University Advancement and Marketing & Communications may be reached at 305-623-6355 or via cellular at 786-295-4544.

Marivi Prado, Chief Marketing Officer, can be reached at 305-474-6880 or via cellular at 305-205-2656.
If she is unavailable, please contact Robert Fabricio, Multimedia Production Manager, at 305-628-6664 or via cellular at 917-655-9073.

Physical Plant

For facilities related issues please contact Juan Zamora, Director of Physical Plant at 786-295-4098.

Telecommunications

Any questions or concerns regarding on-campus phone service should be directed to the OIT Help Desk 305.628.6610 or helpdesk@stu.edu.

HURRICANE TERMINOLOGY

Hurricane Season: The six-month period from June 1 – November 30 is considered hurricane season (the time when hurricanes are most likely to form).

Changes to issuance of tropical storm and hurricane watches and warnings: Watches and warnings for tropical storms and hurricanes along threatened coastal areas will be issued 12 hours earlier than in previous years. Tropical storm watches will be issued when tropical storm conditions are possible along the coast within 48 hours. Tropical storm warnings will be issued when those conditions are expected within 36 hours. Similar increases in lead time will apply to hurricane watches and warnings. This will give authorities more time for decision-making and implementing response activities such as evacuation.

Tropical Storm: An organized system of strong thunderstorms with a defined circulation and top winds of 39-73 MPH. Tropical Storms can quickly develop into hurricanes. Storms are named when they reach Tropical Storm strength.

Hurricane: An intense tropical weather system with a well-defined circulation and a sustained wind speed of 74 MPH or higher.

SAFFIR-SIMPSON SCALE OF HURRICANE WIND INTENSITY
Category 1: 74-95 MPH
Category 2: 96-110 MPH
Category 3: 111-129 MPH
Category 4: 130-156 MPH
Category 5: 157 MPH or more

QUICK INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERS
Emergency Updates Phone
Number: 877-STU-PLAN (877-788-7526)
Website: www.stu.edu

- Do not call the switchboard for information because a large volume of incoming calls will tie up telephone lines and hamper efforts to relay accurate information.

- When classes are canceled, the Office of the Provost will notify all academic deans who will in turn notify the faculty in his or her school.

- The University has NOT been designated as an emergency shelter by the American Red Cross. If a campus evacuation is ordered, the American Red Cross will issue a list of available shelters. Students should check the university's Emergency Management web page for important information related to shelters and other issues. ALL non-residential students, faculty and staff must leave campus when such an evacuation is ordered, except emergency operations personnel.

- Following a hurricane, a preliminary damage assessment will be conducted and movement to and from campus may be restricted.

THIS INFORMATION WILL BE CONTINUALLY UPDATED THROUGHOUT THE HURRICANE SEASON.

August, 2013