Hurricane Preparation Kit

Picture: Hurricane Ike, September 2008
Dear UHCL Student:

Greetings from the Intercultural Student Services Office (ISS). As part of the Division of Student Services, one of our primary responsibilities is to make information available to students. Whether the topic is university related or about life in Houston, we are here to help you. During summer and fall semesters, it is important that we forward hurricane preparedness instructions to our students.

Hurricane season begins June 1st and ends November 30th. Living in the Clear Lake area can be a wonderful experience. Generally, this area has a nice, warm climate; however, the Gulf coast is also subject to tropical storms and hurricanes. These storms can be dangerous and should be taken seriously. Even though it is probable that we will not have a hurricane this season, it is strongly advised to be prepared.

In the event that a serious storm occurs, we may be asked to evacuate this area. Students, particularly those without access to vehicles, need to give serious consideration to signing up for evacuation transportation. UHCL has formulated a plan in the event we are asked to evacuate to another location or city. Students must register in the Student Assistance Center (SAC) in order to secure a seat. Due to space limitations, students will be limited to one suitcase and one carry-on bag. Please see attached Hurricane Evacuation to Do List Document for additional information.

If an evacuation is necessary, the information regarding procedures and transportation will be posted on the UHCL and our website at www.uhcl.edu/iiss, or you may call us at 281-283-2575. In the event of a hurricane and/or evacuation, the UHCL Hotline - emergency phone 281-283-2221 – is the best source of accurate, up-to-date information regarding the operational status of the university.

In order to better serve you, we must make advanced plans to assure safe travel out of the UHCL area. We will use the E-Services system to access your information and contact you with important messages. Therefore, it is imperative that your personal information is current and accurate. We ask that you take a few minutes to access the E-Services page - click on Campus Personal Information – and update your records as necessary. If you experience difficulty doing so, please do not hesitate to contact Student Assistant Center (SAC) at 281- 283- 2722 for assistance.

Sincerely,

Linda Contreras Bullock
Assistant Dean, Student Diversity
Intercultural Student Services
SSCB 1.203
281-283-2575
Hurricane Evacuation to Do List

- UHCL is not a Hurricane shelter
- Students with vehicles are asked to share rides with those who do not have vehicles
- If students cannot arrange for transportation, UHCL will provide a limited service
- You must register if you want to avail of this service
- You must complete a Travel Waiver Form
- You will be notified if a Voluntary Evacuation is ordered, make sure your contact information is updated
- Only one suitcase & one carry-on for valuable such as laptops, cameras, etc… per person are allowed
- You must bring with you the following items
  - UHCL Student ID, Passport, I-20, other immigration documents, cash, clothes for 5-6 days, insurance information and a 2-week supply of medicines
  - Also bring a pillow, blanket, towels, and toiletries for your personal use
  - If evacuation occurs during Ramadan, bring a prayer mat if desired

IF AN EVACUATION IS REQUIRED, BUSES WILL LEAVE FROM THE STUDENT SERVICES BUILDING (SSCB) PARKING LOT
The ISS office has compiled this informational resource packet regarding hurricane preparation.

Are you prepared for Houston’s Hurricane Season?

Living in the Clear Lake area can be beautiful. Generally, this area has a nice, warm climate. However, the Gulf coast is also subject to tropical depressions and hurricanes. These severe storms can be very dangerous and should be taken very seriously. Hurricane season begins June 1st and ends November 30th. Students, particularly those without access to vehicles, need to give real thought to what they will do if there is a hurricane. Please prepare a plan. Even though it is quite probable that we will not have a hurricane this season, it is strongly advised to be prepared because they can occur without warning.

The best source of accurate, up-to-date information as to whether UH-Clear Lake is open is the UHCL Hotline, 281–283–2221.
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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 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. Hurricane Warning: Issued when hurricane conditions are expected within 24 hours or less. Immediate action should be taken to protect life and property.

7. Hurricane Alert
Landfall of the storm eye is expected within 68 hours.

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

9. 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.

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**Be Prepared**

**Preparation Checklist - Things to do/prepare before a Hurricane**

1. Plan a flood-free evacuation route in case you are asked to evacuate. Identify location where you will go if evacuation is mandated. Keep a road map, in case roads are closed. Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or local radio or TV stations for instructions.

2. Purchase and have the following emergency supplies on hand including:
   - Non-perishable food for at least 5-6 days
   - Water – 2 quarts to 1 gallon per day per person
   - Canned Foods: soup, tuna, vegetables, fruits, etc.
   - Snacks: cookies, crackers, etc.
   - Snack spreads: peanut butter, jelly, cheese spread, hummus, etc.
   - Cereal, bread
   - Duct tape, insect repellent spray, candles
   - Toilet paper, paper towels
   - Ice chests, paper plates, plastic cups, forks, knives, spoons
   - Flashlights & extra batteries
   - Manual can opener
   - Battery-operated radio/television & extra batteries
   - Essential medicines, prescriptions & eyeglasses
   - First aid kit
   - Cash & Credit cards

   See page 9 for a more detailed list of emergency supplies.

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**If Hurricane Watch is Issued**
(There is a threat of hurricane conditions within 24-36 hours):

1. Monitor radio/TV for updates.
2. Make sure your Storm Kit is adequately equipped with the proper emergency supplies and important documents.
3. Gas up your vehicle, in case of an evacuation notice – fill your gas tank!
4. Bring in outdoor objects such as lawn furniture, toys and garden tools.
5. Secure outside furniture, plants, and tools.
6. Review evacuation plans.
If Hurricane Warning is issued
(Hurricane winds of 74 mph or greater or dangerously high water and rough seas are expected in 24 hours or less):

1. Listen to the radio/TV for updates and official instructions.
2. Store water in clean bathtubs, jugs and bottles.
3. Store valuables & personal papers in waterproof containers.
4. Stay inside, away from windows, skylights and glass doors.
5. Turn refrigerator and freezer to coldest setting to keep stored food fresh longer if power is knocked out.
6. If power goes out, unplug all appliances, TVs, stereos and computers to reduce potential damage from a power surge when electricity is restored.
7. Stay inside, away from windows, skylights, & glass doors.
8. Store drinking water in clean bathtubs, jugs & bottles.

Shelter in Place

If a Hurricane or Flood Threatens and You Stay

1. If your house is flooded, do not try to swim or wade to safety. Stay calm and wait.
2. If you are not advised to evacuate, stay indoors and away from windows, skylights and glass doors, even if they are covered. A small interior room without windows on the first floor is usually the safest place.
3. Secure buildings by closing and boarding up each window of your home. Tape is not adequate.
5. If in a mobile home, check tie-downs and evacuate immediately. Historically, manufactured homes suffer the greatest amount of damage during hurricanes. Prior to 1994, most manufactured homes were not designed to withstand even moderate winds.
6. Moor your boat securely, or move it to a designated safe place.
7. In case of flooding, move emergency supplies and valuables to the highest area inside your residence. If water has already entered your residence, do not turn off the electricity. Get out of the water.
8. Turn off propane tanks.

After a Hurricane

1. Wait until an area is declared safe before entering.
2. Check or make sure your landlord checks gas, water, electrical lines and appliances for damage.
3. Don’t use telephones except in emergencies.
4. Use portable radio/TV for information.
5. If you smell gas, leave your house and call your gas supplier.
6. Stay tuned to TV or local radio stations for advice and instruction about emergency medical aid, food, and housing availability, and other forms of assistance.
7. Avoid loose or dangling wires and power lines.
8. Stay away from riverbanks, bayous, streams, flooded roads and washed-out bridges until a potential flooding are past.
9. Open refrigerators and freezers only when necessary. A freezer without power should keep food in satisfactory condition up to 36 hours if it is kept closed. Wrapping a freezer in blankets will help insulate it.
10. Watch out for animals, especially poisonous snakes that may have come into buildings with floodwaters.
11. Watch for loose plaster, drywall and ceilings that could fall.
12. Avoid drinking or preparing food with tap water until you are certain it is not contaminated.

**Survival Kit Supplies**

Here is a *minimum* suggested list of survival kit supplies. Ensure at least a three days (72 hours) supply for *each person*. Do not forget *pets* where applicable.

- Non-perishable food for at least 5-6 days
- Water – 2 quarts to 1 gallon per day per person
- Canned Foods: soup, tuna, vegetables, fruits, etc.
- Snacks: cookies, crackers, etc.
- Snack spreads: peanut butter, jelly, cheese spread, hummus, etc.
- Cereal, bread
- Duct tape, insect repellent spray, candles
- Toilet paper, paper towels
- Ice chests, paper plates, plastic cups, forks, knives, spoons
- Flashlights & extra batteries
- Non-electric/Manual can opener
- Battery-operated radio/television preferably a NOAA weather radio & extra batteries
- First Aid kit/essential medicines, prescriptions & eyeglasses
- Proper identification / immunization records
- Cash & credit cards or checks. Banks and ATMs may not be open or available for extended periods
- Blankets / pillows, etc.
- Clothing - seasonal / rain gear/ sturdy shoes
- Special Items - for babies and the elderly
- Toiletries / hygiene items / moist (baby) wipes
- Road maps- evacuations routes and alternates
- Keys
- Toys, books and games
- Important documents - in a waterproof container
- Insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, Social Security card, etc.
- Tools - keep a set with you during the storm
- Vehicle fuel tanks filled
- Pet care items
- Pet cage or carrier, muzzle and leash
Evacuation

How to Evacuate Before a Hurricane

If you are Evacuating on Your Own

You do not need to wait for a governmental order to evacuate. If the current status is “shelter in place”, you may still decide to leave town on your own.

- Deciding to evacuate without official orders is purely on a voluntary basis.
- The university will not provide transportation during a voluntary evacuation.
- You must provide your own transportation and accommodations.
- Prepare for a long trip by bringing 5-6 days of water, non-perishable foods and toiletries.
- Pack and secure your important documents (e.g. visas, passport, I-20, driving license, auto insurance cards, health insurance card, etc.)
- Carry sufficient cash for expenditures – there may be electrical outages preventing you from using ATM machines or credit card readers.
- Communicate your destination and arrival to a close friend and/or your emergency contact person.
- If the university DOES NOT close and you decide to VOLUNTARILY evacuate, you will be held responsible for your course work with each individual professor.
- Leave early to avoid heavy traffic.
- Evacuate in daylight when possible.
- Stay away from floodwaters, never drive through them.

If you are Evacuating with the University

The university will provide transportation to a safe location to UHCL students who do not have a means to evacuate themselves. Space is limited, so it is essential to register for this service as soon as possible.

- Students must pre-register at www.uhcl.edu/deanofstudents.
- In addition to registering, several forms must be completed and returned to the Student Assistance Center (SAC). Forms are located at the same website.
- Evacuations can happen with very little notice. It is important that you make preparations now by making a list of items you would take with you.
- Students are limited to one suitcase and one carry-on for valuables such as laptops, cameras, etc.
- Plan for 5-6 days of being away from your home (law agencies will allow residents to return after hurricane passes and roads are clear, power lines are secured, etc.).
- Bring more than enough medications: at least for 2 weeks is optimal.
- You must bring your own blanket and pillow; they will not be provided.
- Other items to bring include: towel and toiletries, clothes, reading material, important documents and cash.
- Bus ride to evacuation location may be long. Bring snacks, water, DVDs, movies.
- You will be held accountable to both UHCL student code of conduct and that of the host university.
- You will be responsible to UHCL chaperones and must follow their instructions.
- Be prepared to return to less than desirable conditions when approval to come home is given: you may find no electricity, damage to your residence, no available food.
## Important Phone Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>EMERGENCY SERVICES</strong></th>
<th><strong>NON-EMERGENCY NUMBERS</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evacuation Information</td>
<td>American Red Cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Only</td>
<td>Clear Lake Substation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPD Dispatch</td>
<td>Sheriff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Department</td>
<td>Nassau Bay Police Dept.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Houston Services</td>
<td>Houston Fire Dept.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clear Lake Emergency Medical</td>
<td>713-884-4500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poison Control Center</td>
<td>Pets (SPCA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter and Other Services</td>
<td>713-869-7722 (day)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road and bayou conditions, Areas to be evacuated (Tran Star)</td>
<td>713-880-4357 (night)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Houston Office of Emergency Management</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Galveston County Office of Emergency Mgmt.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>UTILITIES</strong></th>
<th><strong>Hospitals</strong></th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Center Point Energy (Natural gas)</td>
<td>Christus St. John</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Customer Service</td>
<td>281-333-5503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Report a Gas Leak</td>
<td>281-332-2511</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center Point Energy (Electricity)</td>
<td>Memorial Southeast</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>TDD (Telecommunications Devices for the Deaf) Numbers for the Hearing Impaired</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Houston Emergency Number</td>
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<tr>
<td>Center Point Energy Deaf Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houston Police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harris County Sheriff’s Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>FEMA</td>
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### Important Websites

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Important Website</th>
<th>Website Link</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interactive Hurricane Tracking Map</td>
<td><a href="https://www.weatherblog.abc13.com">www.weatherblog.abc13.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hurricane Forecast Discussion</td>
<td><a href="https://www.weatherblog.abc13.com">www.weatherblog.abc13.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real-time Weather updates</td>
<td><a href="https://twitter.com/abc13weather">www.twitter.com/abc13weather</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="https://facebook.com/abc13weather">www.facebook.com/abc13weather</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evacuation Information</td>
<td><a href="https://www.texasonline.com">www.texasonline.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="https://www.txdot.gov">www.txdot.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>National Hurricane Center</td>
<td><a href="https://www.nhc.noaa.gov">www.nhc.noaa.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houston-Galveston National Weather Service</td>
<td><a href="https://www.srh.noaa.gov/hgx">www.srh.noaa.gov/hgx</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galveston County Office of Emergency Mgmt.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.gcoem.org">www.gcoem.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEMA</td>
<td><a href="https://www.fema.gov/hazard/hurricane">www.fema.gov/hazard/hurricane</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Red Cross</td>
<td><a href="https://www.redcross.org">www.redcross.org</a></td>
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Hurricane Evacuation Zones and Routes

Evacuation Zone Map

UHCL IS LOCATED IN ZONE B. See pages 13, 14, 15.
Important Tips
Your needs and those of your family should be the primary factors considered when determining the timing of your evacuation. If you must evacuate, do not delay your departure in anticipation of the opening of the contraflow lanes. Should the contraflow be activated, citizens will be advised through local radio and television stations. All citizens should prepare a plan well in advance of the evacuation.

The following steps are recommended:
- Assemble your disaster supplies kit with items such as flashlights, cell phones, extra batteries, battery chargers, portable radio, first aid kit, emergency water and food, medical supplies and equipment, non-electric can opener, highway map, important documents, such as insurance and medical information, etc.
- Secure your home against disaster to help reduce damages. Cover windows with shielding materials. Secure or put up any loose objects from around your home.
- If you cannot take your pets with you, make provisions for them.
- Know your area’s evacuation plan/routes before you leave home (www.texasonline.com).
- Fill your vehicle with gas as early as possible. Take only the vehicle necessary to transport you and your family to safety. Extra vehicles create congestion.
- Bring extra cash in case banks are closed and ATMs are not working.
- Notify family and friends (especially those out the area) of your plan and your destination.
- Develop an emergency plan in case family members are separated. Instruct all evacuating family members of the name and contact information of your designated out-of-area friend or family.
- Ensure children know how and when to call 9-1-1.
- Evacuate, traveling safely to your destination.
- Expect travel times to destinations to be significantly longer than normal.

After the storm, listen to local officials for the all-clear signal before returning home. Check for information at www.texasonline.com.

Do not try to drive through standing water. Just a few inches can float a vehicle.

Fender-Bender?
State law requires motorists to move fender-bender accidents out of the travel lanes to the shoulder of the road. To keep all travel lanes and shoulders clear, however, disabled vehicles on the shoulder will be relocated to the next exit ramp where further assistance may be available.

More information on hurricane preparedness and evacuation safety is available from the following:

**Shelters and Special Needs**
Call 2-1-1

**Emergency Alert Stations**
Houston: KTRH 740 AM
Dallas: WBAP 820 AM

State of Texas
www.texasonline.com

Texas Department of Transportation
www.txdot.gov

Highway Road Conditions and Evacuation Routes
www.drivetexas.org

1-800-452-9292

Texas Department of Public Safety
www.txdps.state.tx.us

Governor’s Division of Emergency Management
www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem

American Red Cross
www.redcross.org

1-800-RED-CROSS (733-2767)

For Emergencies: Call 9-1-1

Rev. 05/15/2013
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San Antonio: WOAI 1200 AM
State of Texas
www.texasonline.com

Texas Department of Transportation
www.txdps.state.tx.us

Highway Road Conditions and Evacuation Routes
www.drive2tx.org
1-800-452-9292

Texas Department of Public Safety
www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem

Governor’s Division of Emergency Management
www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem

American Red Cross
www.redcross.org
1-800-RED-CROSS (732-2767)

For Emergencies: Call 9-1-1

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