



# Tropical Storm, Hurricane and Dangerous Weather Guide

## Instruction guide for University Housing Residents

*(Updated August 2008)*

In the event of a hurricane, the University may close, and all on-campus resident students and guests (this includes camp and conference attendees) may need to evacuate University Housing should weather conditions necessitate.

This brochure is available for resident students and their guests to serve as an aid in maintaining their personal safety and well being (this includes camp and conference attendees).

Please read this brochure in its entirety. If you have questions, contact a Department of Housing and Residence Life staff member immediately for clarification.

The University is not liable for damage to or loss of personal property. Please refer to the University Housing Contract Terms and Conditions or contact an Area Office for clarification. For safety purposes we urge you to take weather reports seriously.

### HURRICANE INFORMATION

Hurricane season begins June 1 and ends November 30. It is important that all University Housing resident students stay informed about changing weather conditions.

**Before, during and after a hurricane, tropical storm, or other weather conditions, emergency information can be found through the following resources.**

- Listening to WUWF 88.1 FM. This is the University's official source of emergency information. In addition, information can be found on the WUWF website, <http://wuwf.org>. WUWF will broadcast information specific to the UWF community as well as the surrounding Pensacola area. Both the WUWF website at <http://wuwf.org> and the UWF website at <http://uwf.edu> will be updated as frequently as possible (see below). Additional sources of information may also be made available and announced to the campus community as they become available.
- In order to view information specific to the UWF campus(es) and community see the UWF website, <http://uwf.edu>. In addition, links to the University Housing website and other information resources will be available from the UWF website.
- Reading and visiting the websites of local news/media outlets. The Pensacola News Journal publishes a newspaper daily and also maintains a website at <http://pensacolanewsjournal.com>. The television station; **WEAR** is Pensacola's local ABC affiliate and broadcasts news daily and on its website at <http://weartv.com>.

### STORM WATCHES AND WARNINGS

A **TROPICAL STORM ALERT** indicates a significant inclement weather storm is developing in the vicinity of UWF. This typically refers to significant rain, wind, lightening and other such conditions. Resident students need to safeguard against these conditions to ensure personal safety, and the safety of belongings.

A **HURRICANE WATCH** indicates tropical storm or hurricane conditions are a possible threat within approximately 36 hours in a specified region. Resident students should begin preliminary preparations to protect personal safety, well being and property.

A **HURRICANE WARNING** indicates tropical storm or hurricane conditions are expected in a specified region within approximately 24 hours or less. All preparations to leave University Housing facilities must be complete in the event a closure is announced. This includes the resident student notifying the Resident Assistant (RA) when leaving the facility to assist the University Housing staff in ensuring the facilities are secure.

## PLAN AHEAD

Do not wait until the last minute to make plans. Know where you will go should the university experience severe weather which causes a closure. Past experience shows that once a Hurricane Watch is announced, many supplies, including gasoline for vehicles, are depleted and store checkout lines may be long. Should you need to purchase supplies for your travel, it is best to plan ahead.

If resident students or camp/conference attendees can leave the campus for home (or a friend or relative's home), they are strongly encouraged to plan to do so. Make arrangements in advance to potentially stay at another location and plan to be there awhile in case it is necessary.

Plan to take supplies and belongings you will need for an extended stay. The University is unable to provide transportation to the University Commons which acts as a shelter in the event of a hurricane. Should you choose to reside the University Commons shelter it is within walking distance of University Housing.

If a resident student has need for transportation due to a physical disability please notify a Residence Life staff member as soon as a Hurricane Watch is broadcasted so we may be of best assistance. International students and those who live a distance away from UWF should plan ahead to find a place to go as well. Residents may also need to have a battery-powered flashlight and alarm clock in case of a power outage as the use of candles and other flammable lighting is prohibited.

## DURING A HURRICANE WATCH

To prepare for the possibility of an evacuation please take these steps:

- Pull all furniture, including beds, away from the windows. Computers, TVs, stereo equipment, etc. should be raised off the floor, preferably placed in a closet or study area.
- Place all articles from the floor (shoes, rugs, clothes, boxes, suitcases, etc.) on closet shelves or in dresser drawers.
- Place all loose objects in drawers or closets. Paper, books, etc., should not be left on tops of dressers or desks or near windows.
- Close and lock all windows. If there are mini blinds in the room or apartment, **raise them to the open position**. If there are vertical blinds in the room or apartment, completely open them. Curtains should be left open.
- **Do not put tape on window glass.**
- Fill vehicle gas tank (if applicable) If not using a vehicle to evacuate park the vehicle in an appropriate parking area with the emergency brake set and in reverse gear or park. All windows should be closed and the vehicle locked. *Vehicles parked near buildings and not in an approved parking area (i.e. motorcycles in bicycle racks, cars in loading zones) may be removed or towed at owner's expense.*
- Bring bicycles in from the outside and store in a bedroom. Should University Housing staff need to remove bicycles, they may be discarded.
- Do NOT store motorcycles, mopeds, or any other vehicle containing combustible fuel in or near University Housing facilities. These must be stored at an alternate location for safety purposes.
- Disconnect all unneeded appliances.
- Completely empty and unplug your refrigerator. **Discard all perishable food items. Residents may be charged a cleaning fee for failure to follow this requirement.**
- Place all non-perishable food items in cupboards.
- **In the event of an evacuation plan to take all necessary medications or other items since re-entering University Housing facilities may not be possible. International students should take their passports and airline tickets with them.**
- **Plan to take any valuable items. Please do not plan to leave these items in University Housing.**

## HURRICANE WARNING

If a Hurricane Warning is issued, **UWF may encourage evacuation of the campus, including University Housing.** Be prepared to leave University Housing facilities. Flyers will be posted, announcements will be made and community meetings will be held in order to inform resident students and camp/conference attendees.

## **CLOSE AND LOCK ALL DOORS WHEN LEAVING UNIVERSITY HOUSING FACILITIES.**

In the event there is an evacuation, locks on exterior doors may be changed. Resident students (or camp/conference participants) will not be permitted to re-enter University Housing facilities until the Director of Housing and Residence Life officially announces the residential facilities are ready to re-open and/or re-occupy.

If there is not an evacuation and some facilities remain open, flyers will be posted at the Area Offices and throughout the residential community to assist in notifying resident students and/or camp/conference attendees. Please check at the Area office for updates.

**Please note:** The Director of Housing and Residence Life/designee reserves the right to determine the use of spaces within the Housing System. The Director/designee reserves the right to have authorized University staff or designees enter any suite/room to inspect, maintain, and repair the premises and furnishings. The Director/designee may request only essential personnel return to campus prior to other resident students and/or staff.

## HURRICANE SHELTERS

Do not report to a shelter until it is officially open and ready for service. The University and local media will announce shelter openings. Pets, firearms, alcoholic beverages, and other illegal or dangerous substances are prohibited in shelter areas.

A shelter is not intended to serve as a residential facility. It will most likely be crowded. The shelter offers little privacy; limited facilities, services and utilities, including electricity and technology may be limited.

Bring the following items to the shelter:

- Bedding, including pillows and blankets
- Personal prescription medications
- Extra set of clothing, toiletries
- Flashlight/batteries
- Personal first aid kit
- Identification (driver's license, Social Security card, student I.D. card, etc.)
- Cash, traveler's checks you may need following the storm
- Valuable papers (passport, bank checks, airline tickets)
- Drinking water, and a 24-hour supply of non-perishable food
- Books, games
- **Pack lightly. Each individual will be responsible for carrying personal items. In addition, security of items brought to the shelter is each individual's responsibility.**

## AFTER THE HURRICANE

Stay tuned to television or radio broadcasts for the announcement or call posted UWF Hotline telephone number for specific campus information.

## OTHER

Please remember the Pensacola area experiences approximately three seasons. There may be unexpected weather conditions at any time. Whenever there is a threat of uncertain weather conditions safeguard against possible injury, ie.; during severe rain conditions, safeguard yourself against lightening strikes. Should conditions indicate rain, wind or other types of weather alerts, be sure to have planned ahead for personal safety and the safety of belongings.

For additional questions please contact 850-474-2463.

