What to do When a Storm Threatens

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What to do When a Storm Threatens

Tropical Weather Definitions:
- tropical depression (numbers) – thunder storms and wind less than 38 mph
- tropical storm (named) – organized storm with circulating winds 39-73mph
- hurricane (named) – intense storm with cyclonic winds greater than 74 mph
- watch – means a tropical storm/hurricane may area in the area within 36 hours
- warning – means a tropical storm/hurricane could arrive in the area within 24 hours

The University of Miami activates its Disaster-Business Continuity Plan when a storm is within 1,000 miles or 72 hours of South Florida. What do they do:
1. update the Hotline/ Web site [ http://www.miami.edu/prepare/ ] saying monitor the storm
2. notifies the Crisis Decision Team and Emergency Advisory Committee
3. recommends beginning hurricane preparations

What should a Department/Program do?
1. make sure that the department phone-tree list is updated (emergency notification plan)
2. back up computer data (to one or more sources)
3. update your departmental list of valuable equipment (with serial numbers)
4. notify all departmental personnel about the presence of a storm
5. check your supplies: plastic sheeting, masking tape, batteries, etc...

The University next responds when a storm is within 500 miles or in response to NHC Advisories. What the University does:
1. post up-to-date information at web site [ http://www.miami.edu/prepare/ ] & hotline (284-5151)
   All official announcements will be on the web site or the hot line.

What should a Department/Program Do?

When an official “Tropical Storm/Hurricane Watch” (within 36 hr) is issued by the NHC for South Florida
1. instruct department personnel in how to clear desktops, cover books, papers, small equipment with plastic sheeting
2. instruct/coordinate personnel about moving furniture, computers, etc.. away from windows
3. remind personnel to remove personal belongings not covered by UM insurance

When an NHC “Tropical Storm/Hurricane Warning” is issued (could arrive within 24 hours)
1. clear desktops, and cover books, papers, computers, and equipment with plastic sheeting
2. move furniture (as necessary) away from windows
3. move computers (computer labs) away from windows or to a secure area
4. disconnect all electrical equipment including departmental hot plates, microwaves, refrigerators, radios, lamps, etc...
5. make sure all doors and windows are latched
6. check the University Hotline (284-5151) and Web page for official announcements about closure.

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What to do AFTER a Storm  (page 2)

All employees should contact their supervisor (department chairperson) as soon as possible after a hurricane to inform them of the status of their family & homes.

Supervisors are RESPONSIBLE for reporting on the safety of each staff person

   Chairs (or designee) should report status of their personnel according to the following list:

   - BIL, CHM, CSC, ESP, MSC, MTH, & PHY should report to Dean DIXON at (o) 305-284-4021, (h) 305-661-2067, or (c) 786-473-3476
   - ART, LOWE, RING, & THA should report to Dean ROBERTS at (o) 305-284-4036, (h) 305-285-9252, or (c) 305-903-7549
   - AMS, DEV, IDS, LAS, MLS, SAS, & WOS report to Dean DEUTSCH at (o) 305-284-4333, (h) 305-271-4946 or (c) 786-278-7686
   - ENG, GEG, HIS, INS, JUS, PHI, and REL report to Dean Pals at (o) 305-284-4036, (h) 305-233-8440, or (c) 305-546-2500
   - AIS, APY, CAS, MLL, PSY, SOC, and WRC report to Dean Mallery at (o) 305-284-3188, (h) 305-232-6954, (c) 786-449-5442

   If a chair or designee CAN NOT reach one of the above Deans please report directly to either:
     - Dean HALLERAN  at  305-284-4021 (o)  -  305-456-0115 (h)  -  305-582-5955 (c)  -  480-458-6410 (sat)
     - or Dean MALLERY    at  305-284-3188 (o)  -  305-232-6954 (h)  -  305-794-0662(c)   -  480-458-6419 (sat)

The University has created a web site for CHECK-IN & RECOVERY for after a storm if you have had to relocate or if you need emergency assistance.
   http://recovery/miami.edu

   The web site can be used to identify employees who need emergency assistance and can be used to track faculty, staff, and students who have relocated. The purpose of the web site is to provide a place for the students, faculty and staff of the University of Miami to check-in with the University after a storm or other disaster event. You or someone on your behalf can supply information such as your contact information at your current location, status, and needs.

What to do at HOME after a storm

   - Listen to announcements in local media (radio, TV, or newspaper) to find out if it's safe to use tap water. Follow the instructions given for using water.
     - If you do not know whether the water is safe to use, boil water before you use it for anything (brushing teeth, cooking, drinking or bathing).
   - Use battery-powered lanterns and flashlights instead of candles.
   - Some small engines, stoves, generators, lanterns, gas ranges put off carbon monoxide gas and should only be used in well-ventilated areas. Burning charcoal and wood may also emit dangerous fumes.
   - Protect yourself from mosquitoes: wear long-sleeved and long-legged clothing, and use insect repellents that contain DEET.
   - Throw away any food that may have been touched by flood water or may be unsafe to eat because of power loss.
   - Use canned baby formulas that are ready-to-use (you don't have to add anything to them). Do not prepare infant formulas with water that has been treated with chemicals.
   - Do not drive through flooded roads. Cars can be swept away or break down.
   - Be aware of possible structural, electrical, or gas-leak hazards, as you return to and begin cleaning homes or other buildings.
   - To prevent growth of some bacteria, viruses, mold, and mildew that can cause illness, disinfect and dry out buildings and the items in them.

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