



EMERGENCY RESPONSE HURRICANE GUIDE FOR UTMB STUDENTS

It is imperative that students and their families develop a personal evacuation plan, and be ready to implement that plan if a storm threatens the Galveston area.

Living with the threat of a serious hurricane is part of living in Galveston. Because our first concern is for the safety of our students and employees, UTMB has emergency plans and teams in place if a storm approaches the Texas Gulf Coast area. We plan ahead in conjunction with the city and county of Galveston, and emergency officials.

However, you must plan ahead in the event of a tropical storm or hurricane weather emergency. Students and their families should develop their own personal emergency plans in the event Galveston is threatened by a hurricane. These plans should include your destination and transportation arrangements.

Staying Informed

When a hurricane or tropical storm threatens Galveston, the university will activate the UTMB Alert system to provide faculty, staff, students and parents with up-to-date information on storm progress, instructions regarding campus preparations, announcements about closing and reopening of university offices, and other relevant instructions. In addition, the UTMB emergency website will be updated with vital information.

- **UTMB Alert Line:** UTMB hotline at (409) 77-ALERT (772-5378) or toll free at (888) 772-5449; or
- Call the UTMB main operator at (409) 772-1011.
- Information is also available via the web at <http://www.utmb.edu/alert>. Should the UTMB web server go down, a second server is in place as a backup. It is hosted by our colleagues at The Texas Higher Education Network (THE.net), and will be available via UTMB's normal URL: <http://www.utmb.edu>. Additionally, an informational site will be activated at <http://utmbinfo.com>.
- Monitor local television and radio stations including KPRC/950 AM, KTRH/740 AM and KIKK/96 FM in Houston.
- Information Technology Emergencies - in the event that there is a disruption of network or applications services, you can check the status of any given system by going to: http://www.utmb.edu/operations/daily_operations_status.htm

Preparing for the Storm

Your first step in preparing for a hurricane should be to develop a personal emergency response plan and discuss it with your family well ahead of a weather emergency. This list will help you in your planning.

1. **Rental insurance.** Purchase insurance for and inventory your personal possessions
2. **Develop an emergency communication plan.** Have an out-of-state relative or friend serve as a "family contact." After a disaster, it's often easier to call long distance.
3. **Hurricane preparation kit.** Pull together useful items such as non-perishable food items and snacks, juices, soft drinks, bottled water, manual can opener, change of clothing, sturdy shoes, portable radio, first-aid kit, batteries, flashlight, eating utensils and containers for holding water. Refill prescription medicines. When you evacuate, you will want to take these supplies with you, along with a blanket and pillow or sleeping bag. Include games and toys as necessary for children or others.
4. **Prepare your room or apartment.** Pick up all items from the floors and store in drawers and closets. Move upholstered furniture away from windows. Close and lock your windows. Bring inside any items you may have on balconies or other open areas. Turn refrigerator and freezer temperature gauges to the lowest number. Open only when absolutely necessary and close quickly. Unplug stereos, TVs, electronic equipment and lamps.
5. **Computers and electronics.** Back up computer data and take a copy with you. Cover your computer and other electronic equipment with plastic sheeting or large plastic garbage bags.
6. **Store water.** Fill clean, airtight containers to store as much water as possible. Fill the bathtubs with water.
7. **Protect important documents.** Place your documents in waterproof containers and take with you or store at the highest, most secure point in your room, apartment or home.
8. **Gas up your vehicle.** Check all fluids and tire pressures (including spare).
9. **Have cash on hand.** ATMs will not operate should the area experience a power failure.
10. **Evacuation routes.** Consult the following website:
http://www.cityofgalveston.org/documents/GSAInlandEvacMap6_05.pdf
11. **Transportation.** For those who need transportation to the airport, train or bus stations, Public Safety will establish a shuttle service so that the students can make their connections.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If the City of Galveston initiates its City Emergency Notification Plan http://www.cityofgalveston.org/public_safety/hurricane_overview.cfm , students must be aware that the Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) is responsible for coordinating all the components of the emergency management system in the City. These components consist of fire, police, civil defense effort, emergency medical service, public works, volunteers, and other groups contributing to the management of major emergencies or disasters. The EMC performs and exercises other such functions as are necessary to promote and secure public safety and protection within the territorial limits of the City of Galveston

Responding to the Storm

When a hurricane threatens Galveston, UTMB's campus will close and an evacuation order may be issued by UTMB. It is critical that you monitor the UTMB Alert Line and the UTMB emergency website and follow all instructions issued by the UTMB administration. When responding to any evacuation order, you should seek shelter off island and outside of the county.

Please note that students will NOT be allowed to use UTMB University campus buildings as a storm shelter if an evacuation order is given. No students will be allowed to remain on campus in the event of a university evacuation.

Use your prearranged emergency plan. You are urged to make every effort to leave the area since we cannot assure your safety in Galveston under hurricane emergency conditions. Consider the following options for evacuation sheltering outside of Galveston:

- Choose a sheltering option far inland and north of Interstate-10
- Consult the Galveston Evacuation Guide.
- Make reservations at a hotel or motel outside of the storm area.
- Go to a relative's or friend's house.
- Go to a Red Cross shelter. (Shelter locations are announced by the news media as storms approach the area and evacuation orders are issued.)

When You Evacuate

- Tell someone outside of the storm area (a family member or friend) where you are going.
- Leave as soon as possible. Avoid flooded roads and watch for washed-out bridges.
- Offer a ride and share sheltering options with other students who need transportation.
- Bring your preassembled hurricane kit and protective clothing. When an evacuation is ordered, you should do everything in your power to comply. UTMB will provide as much notice as possible in helping students make arrangements so that they can provide for their own safety and welfare.

After the Storm

Consult the Alert Line and Emergency website for official information regarding UTMB campus on a daily basis. Listen to local news media for other information. Stay where you are if it is safe until authorities give the "all-clear." **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO RETURN TO CAMPUS** until instructed to do so via the Alert Line and Emergency Website.

Use the telephone only for emergency calls; however, be prepared to have telephones and cell phones become inoperative. Contact relatives as soon as possible to let them know where you are and to make necessary plans. Drive only if absolutely necessary and avoid flooded areas.