



June 1, 2022

Dear members of the university community,

Today marks the start of the 2022 hurricane season. During the next six months, we must stay alert to news and weather reports and be ready to face a hurricane on short notice.

At FIU, we are monitoring a weather system that will likely form in the Gulf of Mexico this week and could become the Atlantic's first named storm of 2022. According to the National Hurricane Center, it is likely that a tropical depression or Tropical Storm Alex will form by the end of this week. Although it is too early to determine if the storm will impact our region, this is a good time to make sure you and your family have several days' worth of supplies and medicines. Please monitor local media and pay attention to updates from the [National Hurricane Center](#) throughout the next few days.

Hurricane preparation may be a new experience for many members of our university community. Please take steps now to be prepared. **Take a few minutes to read this message; it contains important information and resources to help you be prepared.**

Hurricane preparedness

Now is the time to review, revise or create your personal hurricane plan and purchase the supplies necessary for your [disaster kit](#). The [2022 Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday](#) extends through Friday, June 10. During this time, [qualifying items](#) related to disaster preparedness are exempt from sales tax. The Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) recommends that all Floridians have a disaster supply kit with enough supplies for at least seven days.

If you are new to South Florida, there are resources available online and we urge you to review them to make sure [you are ready](#). If you have additional questions, please call FIU's Department of Emergency Management at 305-348-6975.

FIU's Department of Emergency Management has partnered with FIU Online to develop a free emergency preparedness course. The hurricane preparedness portion of the newly refreshed [Massive Open Online Course](#) (MOOC) only takes around 25 minutes to complete.

Evacuations and shelters

Storm surge poses a great threat to many areas of South Florida. It is the primary reason residents must evacuate prior to a hurricane. Only residents of these areas should be planning to evacuate if instructed by county officials.

The Miami-Dade Office of Emergency Management has identified [Storm Surge Planning Zones](#) in areas where storm surge has the highest incidence of occurrence. In the event of a hurricane, local shelters operated by [Miami-Dade](#) and [Broward](#) counties will be opened.

As a hurricane approaches, on-campus residents are encouraged to leave campus and ride out the storm at home. FIU Housing will provide shelter for on-campus residents who are not able to go home. However, students will not be allowed to stay in their rooms during the storm. BBC's Bayview residents who stay will be transported to MMC for shelter. The hallways of Parkview Hall at MMC have been designated to serve as shelter areas for your safety.

Students should review the [Housing and Residential Life Guide to Hurricane Preparedness](#) for additional information.

FIU Parking Garages

If a storm is threatening our area, FIU parking garages will be open to members of the university community who wish to protect their vehicles from debris and flooding. Space will be limited and on a first-come first-serve basis.

Review FIU's emergency procedures and sign up for FIU Alert

As a member of the FIU family, become familiar with the [university's emergency procedures](#) – which apply to all potential hazards – and be an active participant in your own safety by [signing up](#) for and staying alert to messages from university and local officials.

We have an emergency notification system known as [FIU Alert](#) that will alert you through some or all of the following channels of communication:

- Text messages (only issued in the event of imminent danger)
- Informacast (phones in classrooms and outdoor speakers)
- Email messages to your FIU account: **Your FIU email will be your source of information for all FIU hurricane-related information.**
- Updates on the [FIU homepage](#) and [news.fiu.edu](#)
- Social media: [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)
- FIU Help Line: 305-FIU-HELP (305-348-4357)
- Local media may help disseminate information about FIU operations before and after the storm

Faculty and staff should also review their department's Continuity of Operations Plan. In case of a storm, please remember to take the following steps:

- Back up all your data on the cloud. Faculty and staff have access to [CrashPlan](#) and [Microsoft OneDrive from Office365](#), our backup and storage solutions. Students can use Google Drive, available through their [PantherMail](#).
- Guard against flood damage by raising any sensitive equipment off the floor, especially in ground floor offices.
- Unplug and cover all electronic equipment to protect it from any water leakage that may occur as a result of the storm.

Remember: Living in South Florida means living with the threat of hurricanes. While we hope that the 2022 season will be without incident, we must prepare for whatever it brings. Being informed and prepared, as well as following the advice outlined here, will make for a safer hurricane season and quicker recovery.

Thank you.