



FSU Emergency Preparedness Guide

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FSU ALERT

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Important Numbers

Emergency

911

FSU Police

(850) 644-1234

FSU ALERT Hotline

(850) 644-INFO

Facilities

(850) 644-2424

The unexpected can strike at any time, even at Florida State University. Are you prepared?

How will you know? FSU Alert!

The FSU ALERT emergency notification system is the official source for emergency alerts, warnings, and information from the Florida State University. FSU ALERT is regarded as one of the most advanced emergency notification systems in the nation. The system delivers emergency alerts to over 50,000 students, faculty, staff and campus partners simultaneously through 20 primary and secondary delivery methods in 3 minutes or less. Some delivery methods, such as indoor and outdoor warning sirens, are activated in as little as 3 seconds. In all, FSU ALERT can use up to 34 different methods of emergency communication to get alerts, warnings, and other emergency information out.

Regardless of how you first hear or receive an FSU ALERT, the basic message is always the same: An emergency is occurring on campus. Seek shelter and get more information. The Alerts Page, alerts.fsu.edu, is the official source for the most current and complete in-

formation about any situation at hand. This page will include the details about what is happening, where, and what you should do in response. It is also the official location for any cancellation or closure announcements. Other FSU ALERT delivery methods may contain similar information, but may be limited due to time constraints that are common during fast-breaking emergencies.

Some delivery methods are automatic and you need to do nothing to sign up. Others require registration. Every time you go Online to register for classes, you will be asked to provide your mobile telephone number to receive FSU ALERT text messages. You can "Like" FSU ALERT on Facebook (facebook.com/FSUAlert) and "Follow" FSU ALERT (@FSUAlert) on Twitter. You can download the SeminoleSAFE app to your smart-phone. Detailed instructions, including those for faculty, staff, community partners and parents, are available at emergency.fsu.edu.



Primary:

Alerts.fsu.edu
www.fsu.edu Outdoor Sirens
 Indoor Sirens SMS Text Messages
 E-mail
 SeminoleSAFE App Blue-Light Phones
 (850) 644-INFO Hotline
 Voice Calls
 Desktop Alerts
 SeminoleSAFE App

Secondary:

Voicemail
 RSS Feeds
 Facebook
 Twitter
 Google+
 Tumblr
 FSU Mobile
 Digital Displays Network
 Login Portals
 Common Alerting Protocol (CA'')

Tertiary:

Weather Radios
 Traffic Message Boards
 2-Way Radios
 Card-swipe Door Access
 Seminole Cablevision
 TV Media
 Radio Media
 Print Media
 Online Media
 Vehicle P.A. Speakers
 FSU People Locator
 YouTube
 Word of Mouth
 Family Connection List Serve
 FSU Mobile App

emergency.fsu.edu

alerts.fsu.edu





Tallahassee and the FSU Campus are covered with large trees that could break and fall easily in high winds from thunderstorms, tornadoes, tropical storms and hurricanes.

Tropical Storms & Hurricanes

One of the biggest threats we face in Florida every year are tropical storms and hurricanes. While the Tallahassee area sees fewer storms than the Florida Peninsula or South Florida, we are by no means immune. Statistically, hurricanes directly impact Tallahassee on average once every eight years (21 hurricanes in the last 171 years). The last hurricane to directly impact Tallahassee was Hurricane Kate in 1985. So, by the numbers, we are well overdue for our next hurricane.

Is Florida State University located within an evacuation zone for coastal storm surge?

No. The Main Campus of Florida State University and other facilities located in Leon County are about 30 miles from the Gulf of Mexico and about 100 feet above sea level. Portions of southern Leon County, despite being an inland county, are subject to hurricane storm surge and evacuation; as is Wakulla County where many FSU faculty and staff live. See the enclosed Hur-

ricane Survival Guide for the Capital Area for more information. The FSU Panama City Campus, Marine Lab, Ringling Museum of Art, and College of Medicine office in Sarasota are also located within storm surge evacuation zones.

Is Florida State University susceptible to high wind damage?

Yes. The Main Campus of Florida State University in Tallahassee has been historically very well built from its beginnings in 1851. The university has always built to the appropriate building code of the time, and in most cases exceeds it. The university built most of its buildings strong and well, incorporating reinforced concrete, reinforced masonry, and/or heavy steel construction. As such, there is high confidence that most of the buildings on campus will maintain their core structural integrity through any storm. In other words, we do not expect to experience any major building collapses or roof losses for most buildings.

The greatest weakness of

any building to wind damage is its glass, in windows and doors. Glass can be easily broken in extreme winds, especially if hit by flying debris. Most of the glass windows and doors on campus are not impact-resistant or protected by shutters. Once glass is broken, wind and rain enters easily causing significant water damage.

Is Florida State University susceptible to inland flooding?

YES! The Main Campus of Florida State University in Tallahassee has a number of designated flood zones on campus that have historically been prone to flooding. Flash flooding as a result of Tropical Storm Allison in 2001 resulted in the loss of an FSU student's life on campus. Many areas throughout the Tallahassee community are designated flood zones, which may include some off-campus housing complexes.

Tropical cyclones, including even the weakest tropical storms, can be prolific rain producers. Rainfall amounts in excess of 5 inches are common, with some storms dropping in excess of one foot of rain! Even under the best of conditions, the drainage systems around the region are not capable of adequately managing large amounts of rain, especially if they fall within a short period of time. If the region is already saturated from previous rainfall before the storm's arrival, almost all of the rain that falls will be in the form of runoff.

For more information about flooding on the Main Campus of Florida State University and throughout the Tallahassee community, including maps, visit the Flooding hazard page at safety.fsu.edu.

Is Florida State University susceptible to tornadoes from tropical cyclones?

Yes. Imagine a tropical cyclone, regardless if it is a tropical storm or a hurricane, as a car driving down the road. The area in the right-front quadrant (front-passenger corner) of that car is where the most tornadoes are spawned during a landfalling storm. Therefore, anytime a storm makes landfall heading north or northeast at a point to the west of Tallahassee along the Gulf Coast, we have the greatest risk of seeing tornadoes. The tornado threat may exist for hundreds of miles away from the center of the storm. Examples include Hurricanes Dennis 2005, Ivan 2004, and Opal 1995.

Would Florida State University cancel classes or close campus for a tropical storm or hurricane?

The life safety of our students, faculty, staff and visitors is our number one priority. The decision to cancel classes would be made in close coordination with our community partners, weather service, and emergency management officials. If forecasted conditions for the campus and surrounding community include the threat of severe winds, flooding rains, or tornadoes, then classes may be cancelled. Every storm is different and conditions may vary. Check the Alerts Page (<http://alerts.fsu.edu>) for the current and forecasted operational status of the university.

Would Florida State University evacuate residence halls for a hurricane?

As discussed above, the greatest threat to the safety of residence halls is that of breaking windows due to high winds and debris. Significant structural damage

(foundation, walls, roof) is not expected. As such, any student that elects to stay in a residence hall during a hurricane will be relocated by Housing staff into the interior corridors, hallways, stairwells, or any other room without windows. The ONLY exception to this plan is Alumni Village. The greatest concern for alumni village is from falling trees and flooding. If university officials feel that conditions warrant, Alumni Village residents may be evacuated to another residence hall or shelter on the Main Campus.

Would Florida State University open a shelter on campus for a hurricane?

The Florida State University has a commitment to protect the life safety of all of its students, faculty, staff and their immediate families, regardless if they live on campus or not. In agreement with Leon County Emergency Management, should there be a need, FSU will establish a shelter on campus for its constituents in order to alleviate the demand and burden on public shelters in the community. Access to an on-campus shelter will be restricted to current students, faculty, staff and their immediate families. You will be required to present your FSUCard or other identification to enter.

A specific announcement will be made to the FSU community at the time that the decision to open an on-campus shelter is made. This decision is dependent upon a number of variables and will be made in close coordination with Leon County Emergency Management. The opening of an on-campus shelter is not guaranteed and should not be your first option. Shelters are a lifeboat, not a cruise ship. Do not expect them to be comfortable or offer any

amenities beyond some floor space and a safe roof over your head.

What do I do if there is a Tropical Storm or Hurricane Warning for Florida State University?

1. Prepare your work area for the possibility of broken windows, roof leaks and power outages.
2. Unplug computers, servers (if possible) and other sensitive electronic equipment. Cover equipment and critical records with plastic sheeting. Do not place electronic equipment on the floor. Back up data to off-site locations or removal devices and store securely.
3. Buildings and offices should be locked prior to leaving campus. Students, faculty, and staff must not remain in campus buildings during the passage of a tropical storm or hurricane as most are not rated as hurricane shelters.
4. Resident students should follow the directions of University Housing officials concerning evacuations or sheltering-in-place of residence halls. If you plan to leave campus, advise University Housing of your plans and provide contact information.
5. Off-campus students, faculty and staff should refer to the enclosed Hurricane Survival Guide for the Capital Area for more instructions for personal and home preparedness.
6. ALL students, faculty, and staff should document their plans on the FSU Emergency People Locator website prior to the storm's arrival.



Thunderstorms & Lightning

There are 4 main hazards associated with thunderstorms: 1.) lightning, 2.) flooding, 3.) hail, and 4.) high winds.

How often does FSU get thunderstorms?

The FSU Main Campus in Tallahassee averages 80 days with thunderstorms per year, primarily during the summer months of June, July, and August when thunderstorms are almost a daily occurrence. Thunderstorms also occur in the spring and fall in association with the passage of weather fronts.

How can a thunderstorm be dangerous?

First and foremost, the biggest threat from any thunderstorm is lightning. However, another common characteristic of a thunderstorm is torrential downpours that can obscure visibility, especially when driving at fast speeds, and result in flooding.

When is a thunderstorm considered 'severe'?

By National Weather Service definition, a thunder-

storm is considered "severe" when one or more of the following conditions exists: 1.) Winds or wind gusts in excess of 58mph; 2.) Hail greater than 1-inch in diameter; 3.) Potential for tornado development.

How often does FSU get severe thunderstorms?

The FSU Main Campus in Tallahassee averages 15 severe thunderstorm warnings per year.

What kind of damage can thunderstorm winds do?

Winds of 58mph to 85mph associated with most severe thunderstorms can peel shingles off some roofs; damage gutters, siding or other lightweight structures like carports and sheds; break tree branches; and push over shallow-rooted trees. Falling trees and branches often cut utility lines. Extremely isolated microbursts of straight-lined winds can occasionally exceed 85mph, up to 110mph, which can severely strip roofs; overturn or destroy mobile homes; break doors and windows; and topple numerous trees.

What are some recent examples of thunderstorm wind damage?

On April 2, 2009, a straight-line thunderstorm wind gust of about 75mph toppled close to two hundred trees at the Seminole Golf Course and Alumni Village, causing over \$250,000 in damage. On July 2, 2009, an estimated 70 to 85-mph thunderstorm wind gust toppled trees and tore sections of roof off of the Alltel store on South Monroe Street, Toys-R-Us store on Apalachee Parkway, and blew off some roof-top air conditioning units.

What kind of damage can hail do?

Hail 3/4" or greater is the size of a penny or greater. Surely, if these were to ping you in the head, it would hurt! They can also ding and dent vehicles, break windows, and damage roof shingles and tiles. Obviously, the bigger the hail stone, the greater the damage potential. Hailstones associated with Tallahassee area thunderstorms rarely exceed 1-inch, or about the size of a quarter.

What is lightning?

Lightning is the atmospheric discharge of electricity. It can occur within

clouds, between clouds, and even from clouds to clear air. However, the most dangerous is cloud-to-ground lightning, which can strike people, animals, trees, towers and buildings. Lightning occurs when electricity occurs between areas of opposite electrical charge. When the attraction between positive and negative charges becomes strong enough to overcome the air's resistance, lightning flashes.

Why is lightning dangerous?

Simply put, a person can be killed or seriously injured if lightning strikes them or an object in close contact to them. Even people indoors have been killed by lightning travelling through wires and pipes. An average of 10

people in Florida are killed by lightning strikes annually and 40 are seriously injured. Many of the survivors suffer severe lifelong disabilities.

How far away can lightning reach?

Lightning can strike as far as 10 miles, and in some extreme cases up to 20 miles, from the area where it is raining. That is about the distance you can hear thunder. If you can hear thunder, you are within striking distance. Seek shelter immediately. This also means that you can be struck by lightning even if the sky is perfectly blue and clear around you. No place outside is safe when thunderstorms are in the area!

When should we seek shelter?

The National Weather Service promotes "When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!" and the 30-30 Rule in seeking safe shelter. The 30-30 Rule states: When you see lightning, count until you hear thunder. If this time is 30 seconds or less, go immediately to a safer place.

How long do we need to hide for?

The second part of the 30-30 Rule states: As the storm passes, wait 30 minutes or more after hearing the last clap of thunder before leaving your shelter. Here's a helpful way to remember: "Half an hour since thunder roars, now okay to go outdoors!"

Tornadoes

What is a tornado?

A tornado is a violent column of rotating air that comes down from a thunderstorm to reach the ground. Tornadoes usually last only a few minutes, but they can cause much damage as they travel along the ground. Some tornadoes can travel for many dozens of miles; other tornadoes may appear to skip above the ground for a few moments.

How often does FSU get a threat of tornadoes?

Most tornadoes in Florida occur in June, July and August. However, the strongest tornadoes in Florida usually occur in February, March and April. The Florida State University averages about 11 tornado watches and 3 tornado warnings per year.

How bad are the tornadoes around here?

When most people think about tornadoes, they

imagine the large monsters that destroy pretty much everything in their path. If you think further, however, you'll remember that most of those occur in the Midwestern United States (Oklahoma, Kansas, etc.). Just like there are different categories to hurricanes, there are different sizes of tornadoes, ranked by the Enhanced-Fujita (EF) Scale. Most of the tornadoes we experience around here are EF-0 or EF-1. More rare, but possible, are EF-2 tornadoes. There have been 18 recorded tornado touchdowns (EF-0 to EF-2) in Leon County since 1945. Anything larger is extremely rare for this part of Florida, and none have occurred in Leon County.

What do we do when a tornado warning is issued?

When a tornado warning is issued for campus, immediately seek shelter in

the nearest well-constructed building, away from doors and windows. Try to reasonably place as many walls between you and the outside as possible. Seek more information. Go to alerts.fsu.edu to obtain the details about the warning, including: estimated arrival time, direction, duration, and estimated expiration time. Once the warning has expired, and there is no evidence of damage, you may proceed with your normal course of business.

What if a tornado actually hits campus?

If you see that damage has occurred, stay indoors until further instructions are provided. Follow-up FSU ALERT messages will be issued with more information. By all means, if there are any injuries, call 911 or FSU Police at (850) 644-1234 immediately. Otherwise, keep these phone lines clear for real emergency calls. Report damages to Facilities by calling (850) 644-2424.



A flash flood on January 21, 2010 damaged nearly 50 vehicles parked in the lots around the FSU Circus.

Flooding

Each year, more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other storm related hazard. Why? The main reason is people underestimate the force and power of water. Many of the deaths occur in automobiles as they are swept downstream. Of these drownings, many are preventable, but too many people continue to drive around the barriers that warn the road is flooded. Most recently, flash flooding occurred on the campus of Florida State University on January 21, 2010. Dozens of vehicles were either damaged or destroyed and one person was injured. In 2001, during Tropical Storm Allison, a vehicle drove into floodwaters. The vehicle floated and was swept into a nearby drain. A female passenger managed to escape and was rescued downstream. However, the driver died and his body was

recovered miles downstream. Enhancements have been made to prevent a vehicle or person from being swept into the drain, but flooding in this and other areas on campus is likely to occur again someday. Remember this phrase, “Turn Around, Don’t Drown.” Never walk or drive through floodwater regardless of perceived depth.

Visit safety.fsu.edu for detailed maps indicating where the designated flood zones are on campus. Links to help you find flood zones throughout Tallahassee and Leon County are also provided. On the site, you will also find comprehensive information about the health hazards associated with flooding including contaminated water and food supply, flood-damaged homes and apartments, and flood-related diseases.

Fires

Structure fires pose the greatest single threat to safety on campus compared to all other hazards. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, 154 people have died in campus-related fires since 2000. 86 percent of those occurred in off-campus housing, including Greek housing. The Alpha Tau Omega house burned down in 1999. Numerous apartment complexes in Tallahassee have burned as well. The sad part is that, in most cases, the loss of life was preventable. The most common causes of campus-related fire fatalities are: open flame, cooking, smoking, overloaded electrical circuits, and improper use of portable heating devices.

Open Flame & Burning Items:

Florida State University residence halls strictly prohibit open flame or burning objects such as candles and incense for good reason, it is the number one cause of campus fires and fatalities, including the loss of life at Florida State University. Since the prohibition was put in place in the mid-1980’s, the number of open flame incidents have all but disappeared, and no related injuries have been reported. Charcoal grills are also prohibited indoors and out (except for football tailgating). If you live off campus, avoid using lighted candles or incense. Do not leave any burning object unattended. Keep burning items away from draperies, linens, and papers.

Cooking:

Since the prohibition on burning, the number one cause of fires on campus has become cooking. Year in and year out, dozens of fire alarms

and actual fires are caused by cooking in residence halls and break rooms. Cook only where it is permitted in confined appliances such as toasters, toaster ovens, microwaves and crock pots. Any appliance with an exposed cooking surface such as hot plates, grills, griddles, skillets and woks are prohibited on campus. Keep your cooking area clean and uncluttered. If you use electronic appliances, don’t overload circuits. Never leave cooking unattended, including the microwave. It’s easy to accidentally add an extra zero and turn a 2:00 minute bag of popcorn into a 20:00 minute inferno. If a fire starts in a microwave, keep the door closed and unplug the unit.

Smoking:

As with the prohibition on openly burning items like candles, it is forbidden to smoke within any building on campus. Smoking is only permitted outdoors in designated locations. Make sure cigarettes and ashes are out. Use large, deep, non-tip ashtrays. Never toss hot cigarette butts or ashes into a trash can or landscaping. Soak cigarettes with water before you empty ashtrays. Especially during times of drought, we experience many small grass and brush fires on campus as a result of discarded cigarettes. Of course, never smoke in bed. It’s risky to smoke when you’ve been drinking alcohol or are exhausted.

Overloaded Electrical Circuits & Heating Devices:

Another common cause of fires on campus is overloaded electrical circuits and unapproved heating devices. Do not overload electric outlets with devices that increase the number of available outlets,

unless it is a UL-listed power strip. Extension cords may only be used temporarily and are not approved for long-term use. Extension cords are prohibited above ceilings and in confined spaces such as inside walls or behind furniture. Portable space heaters, regardless of type, are prohibited on campus unless they are UL listed and specifically approved by the Department of Environmental Health & Safety.

Be Prepared for a Fire:

- Your building has an evacuation plan. Learn it and participate in all fire drills as if they were the real thing. Evacuate the building each and every time the fire

alarm sounds, regardless of how annoying it is. Learn the location of the nearest exits to you; you may have to find your way out in the dark.

- Do not hang anything from sprinkler heads and avoid hitting them.
- Fire extinguishers are not toys, don’t play with them. Know where the fire extinguishers are located in your building and how to use one in an emergency. Report any time an extinguisher is missing or has been discharged, regardless of the amount.
- Do not tamper with any fire alarm or detection devices. False alarms are a crime – report them.

Need Some Help?

Dean of Students Department

deanofstudents.fsu.edu
(850) 644-2428

University Counseling Center

counseling.fsu.edu
(850) 644-2003

Employee Assistance Program

vpfa.fsu.edu/Employee-Assistance-Program
(850) 644-2288

Want to Help?

Center for Leadership & Civic Education

thecenter.fsu.edu
(850) 644-3342

Volunteer Leon

volunteerleon.org
(850) 606-1970

Volunteer Florida

volunteerflorida.org
(850) 921-5172