

WATCHES AND WARNINGS

- A watch means that hurricane conditions are expected to reach Mississippi within 36 hours. You should begin preliminary preparations to protect your life and property.
- A warning means that a hurricane is expected in our region within 24 hours. All preparations should be completed at this time.
- If a major storm is expected, Category III or higher, USM will be evacuated for your safety. This means ALL campus housing facilities will close, and residents must leave campus.

The key to successfully preparing for a hurricane is to stay informed and ensure that you and your family have a plan in place. The following link may offer helpful information regarding hurricanes: [weather.gov/safety/hurricane](https://www.weather.gov/safety/hurricane)



Hurricane Evacuation Guide for Students



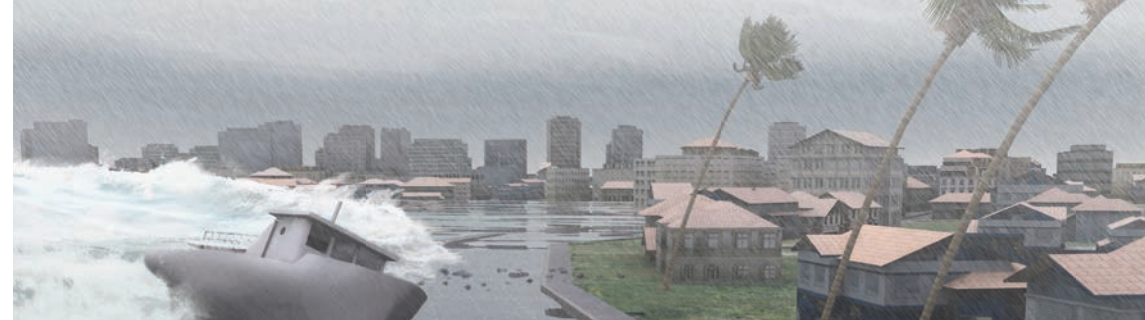
The University of Southern Mississippi
Department of Housing and Residence Life

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BEFORE THE HURRICANE: WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

- Check the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) website at **SouthernMiss.info**. The most immediate release of information regarding the hurricane and related procedures will come from the University's website.
- To receive time-sensitive emergency messages (via text, phone and email), log into Eagle Alert and make sure your contact information is up to date in the system at **usm.edu/safety/eagle-alert**.
- Plan to go home early. Know where you will be going, whether it is home, to a friend's house or to a designated shelter. **Parents may NOT relocate to USM. Refer them to Red Cross shelters in the area. The University is not an emergency shelter and cannot accommodate a large number of additional people.*
- Students with disabilities will be contacted by Housing and Residence Life personnel to help with filling out the online form.
- Students with disabilities and/or emotional support animals will be contacted by Housing and Residence Life personnel to receive specific evacuation plans. In the meantime, begin making plans according to this guide.
- Fill out the Hurricane Evacuation Form in the Student Housing Portal (**rmsweb.usm.edu/Page/HurricaneEvacForm**) to let University officials know what your evacuation plan is, and to give them important information related to your destination. Electronically submit this form before the evacuation is announced.



- Pack an emergency bag. Items you may want to include in your bag are as follows:
 - o Your university ID and driver's license or appropriate identification documents
 - o Important papers
 - o Textbooks and coursework
 - o Basic toiletries (i.e. soap, wash cloth, towel, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste and other personal hygiene supplies)
 - o Small first-aid kit and your medicine supply
 - o Several changes of clothing and a bag to store dirty or used clothing
 - o Your charged cell phone
 - o Cash
 - o Pillow, blanket, sleeping bag
 - o Non-perishable food/snacks and dining supplies (i.e. napkins, plastic forks/spoons, can opener)
 - o Water (plan on one gallon per day)
 - o Flashlights with batteries
 - o Back up electronic devices or portable drives and take with you
 - o Personal valuables
- Remove your car from campus. If you must leave it on campus during evacuation, park it in the Parking Garage on W. Fourth Street. Understand that the University is not liable for storm damage to your vehicle.
- Move your bicycle. We recommend that you bring your bike into your individual room. DO NOT store your bike in a stairwell, lobby or handicap-accessible area.
- Prepare your room.
 - o Close your windows tightly and place towels near the door to prevent water from soaking the entire room (due to the potential for strong winds and rain).
 - o Move items away from the window.
 - o Remove electronics from the floor and place on a shelf or somewhere off the floor in your room.
 - o Cover important items with a plastic trash can liner.
 - o Remove perishable food from your refrigerator.
 - o Take an inventory of the personal items left in your room (take a picture).

**Understand that the University is not responsible for water damage to personal property due to the storm.*

EVACUATION PLAN

USM requires evacuation for Category III (or higher) storms.

- Notify the front desk of your residence hall of your evacuation and submit the Hurricane Evacuation Form in the Student Housing Portal.
- You will be expected to take ALL valuables with you.
- Notify your family that you will be evacuating. If a roommate and/or international student in your hall does not have a place to evacuate, please consider taking them with you.
- Be prepared to receive specific evacuation instructions from the University.

HURRICANE EVACUATION FORM IN STUDENT HOUSING PORTAL

- The Student Housing Portal can be accessed via the homepage of the Housing and Residence Life website by clicking "Enter Housing Portal". Once you log in using your SOAR ID and password click on the "forms" tab and select the "Hurricane Evacuation Form". You can also directly access the form by going to the following link: **rmsweb.usm.edu/Page/HurricaneEvacForm**
- Use your SOAR credentials to login to the Student Housing Portal
- You must complete and submit this online form prior to leaving campus.
- Make sure you sign out with the hall staff at the desk and sign back in when you return.
- If you have any questions or need more information, contact the Desk Assistant (DA) or Resident Assistant (RA) in your residence hall.

DURING THE HURRICANE: WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

- Monitor the University website at **usm.edu** to find out when the University will reopen.
- Monitor the Department of Housing and Residence Life website at **usm.edu/housing-residence-life** for additional information about the reopening of campus housing.
- Communicate your whereabouts to your family.
- DO NOT return to campus before you hear or see these announcements.

AFTER THE HURRICANE: WHAT YOU SHOULD DO UPON RETURNING TO CAMPUS

- Upon your return to campus, check in at the front desk of your residence hall.
 - o In the Village or fraternity houses, check in at Scholarship Hall.
 - o Residents of Mississippi Hall should check in at Hattiesburg Hall.
- Inspect your room and report any damage to the hall staff.
- Communicate your whereabouts to your family.

