



# XULA Hurricane Preparedness Guide

It's important to make a plan in case a storm comes our way. As a city on the Gulf Coast, New Orleans regularly experiences tropical weather and is at a higher risk for hurricanes. This guide offers the basics.

## Be Prepared

Hurricanes (also called typhoons and cyclones) are massive storm systems that form over warm ocean waters and move toward land. Threats from hurricanes include powerful winds, heavy rainfall, storm surges, coastal and inland flooding, rip currents, tornadoes and landslides.

Hurricanes can happen along any U.S. coast or territory. They can affect areas more than 100 miles inland. Hurricane season lasts from June until November but is most active in September.

## Three Easy Steps



### Stay Connected

Download the XULA Safe app and monitor your XULA email, National Weather Service along with local news sources.



### Make a Plan

Make plans in case you need to evacuate or shelter in place. Include your family's and pets' specific needs in your plans.



### Gather Supplies

Gather supplies for a "go bag" and a "home kit" in advance.

## Prepare for Hurricanes

- **Know your area's risk** of hurricanes and consider your personal risk of experiencing impacts.
- **Stay informed.** Monitor official XULA social media, the XULA Safe App and your XULA email for updates on weather conditions.
- **Develop an emergency communication plan** that you can use to contact family, friends and neighbors during a hurricane. Plan to text or message because you may not be able to make or receive phone calls.
- **Develop an evacuation plan.** Consider where you will evacuate to and how you will get there. Practice your plan using your evacuation route.
- **Gather enough food, water and emergency supplies** to last you several days. Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication. Don't forget the needs of pets.

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## Stay safe during

- **Evacuate immediately if ordered to do so.** Take critical supplies and documents with you. Follow evacuation routes and directions from local officials. Drive carefully and be cautious of strong winds and heavy rain
- **The calm “eye” of the storm.** It may seem like the storm is over but after the eye passes, the winds will change direction and quickly return to hurricane force.
- **Do not drive during a hurricane.** Wind gusts can overturn vehicles and roads and bridges could collapse.
- **Move to a safe shelter or a sturdy building as soon as possible and stay inside** if you are outdoors, in a vehicle, in a manufactured or mobile home, or in a temporary structure during a hurricane.
- **Conserve mobile device batteries** for emergency use.
- **Unplug small appliances.** Power surges resulting from the storm can damage electronic devices.



## XULA SAFE

- Instantly receive important/emergency notifications
- Emergency preparedness information
- Learn more about Xavier University's hurricane preparedness plans
- Download the XULA Safe App on IOS, Android and Google play store

## Be safe after

- **Follow XUPD instructions** if you are on campus during a storm, remember to follow instructions from XUPD regarding campus safety.
- **Follow reentry guidance from local authorities** and return home from an evacuation only when it is safe to do so.
- **Follow local advisories.** Following local advisories regarding things like drinking water, travel and safety issues can help keep you safe.
- **Stay away from floodwater.** Floodwater can contain hazards, including sharp objects, downed power lines, sewage, bacteria, chemicals.
- **Save phone calls for emergencies.** Phone systems are often down or busy after a disaster. Use text messages or social media to communicate with family and friends.
- **Use a flashlight.** Never use candles and other open flames indoors.
- **Turn around, don't drown!** Do not walk, or drive through floodwaters. Just six inches of fast-moving water can knock you down and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.

## Learn more

If you would like to learn more about hurricane preparedness. XUPD offers Emergency Preparedness Presentations to student, faculty and staff groups at Xavier University.

The goal of these presentations is to ensure that the Xavier community has the knowledge and experience to respond when disaster strikes.

To inquire about scheduling a hurricane preparedness presentation email [XUEM@xula.edu](mailto:XUEM@xula.edu)