

2019

SEVERE WEATHER GUIDE



ST. THOMAS
UNIVERSITY

THE BASICS

PREPAREDNESS 101

Emergency preparedness is not the sole responsibility of University administrators. Knowing what to do before, during and after an emergency is a critical part of being prepared and may make all the difference between being a survivor and becoming a victim.

This guide will provide you with basic protective actions as a result of possible weather-related emergencies. For example, safety is necessary when experiencing all hazards, whether this means sheltering or evacuating depends on the specific emergency. Developing a communications plan or making an emergency supply kit are the same for accidental emergencies and natural disasters. However, there are important differences among potential emergencies that should impact the decisions you make and the actions you take.

INFORMATION IS KEY. STAY INFORMED!

Leading up to, during and after a storm, we keep our campus community informed of the condition of the campus, if and when classes will be canceled and when we are scheduled to return to regular operation. Anyone seeking updated information on STU's preparations before a storm, and campus conditions during and after a storm should utilize the resources below.

Register for STUAlert!

[STUAlert](#) messages are sent via voicemail, text, email, wall-mounted in-class/common-area notification system, and public address system. When an emergency occurs, an alert will be sent to you through various method(s). **To update your personal contact information, please log into [MyBobcat](#).** Everyone is responsible for maintaining their contact information for STUAlerts to maximize the University's capability to notify them of a life-threatening emergency and issue appropriate protective actions.

Emergency notifications will also appear on the University's [Facebook](#) & [Twitter](#) accounts.

STU Website

The STU home page (www.stu.edu), will contain specific information regarding an approaching storm. This link will provide detailed information on our preparations, current conditions, school closing and reopening information.

Email, Text, and Telephone

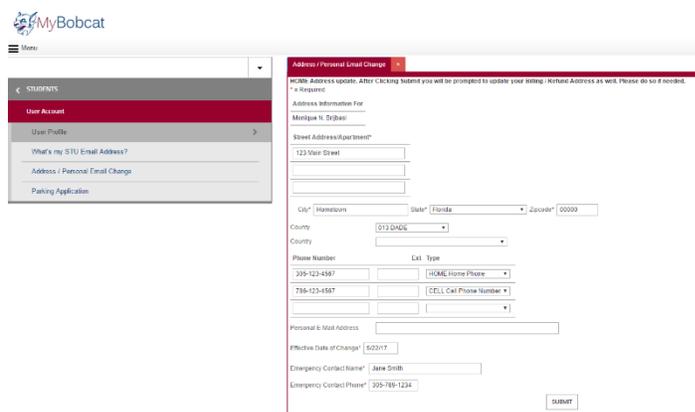
In the event of a hurricane or other emergency, STU uses Blackboard Connect, an automated messaging system will transmit detailed university status information via recorded message to your office, home and cell numbers, send an e-mail to your home and work e-mailbox, and send a text message to your cell phone.

877-STU-PLAN

Live and recorded information is available 24 hours a day. Individual students, faculty and staff are responsible for calling 877-STU-PLAN (**877-788-7526**), for the most current information related to all university emergencies, including weather related emergencies.

Public Address – Blue Light Phones, Call-Boxes, and Classroom Call Boxes

A Public Address (PA) System (i.e., loud speakers) is located throughout campus and may be used to alert the campus community and guests to severe weather or other dangerous situation.



The screenshot shows the MyBobcat user interface. On the left is a navigation menu with options like 'User Account', 'What's my STU Email Address?', 'Address / Personal Email Change', and 'Parking Application'. The main content area is titled 'Address / Personal Email Change' and contains a form for updating personal information. The form includes fields for 'Address Information For' (Montique N. Rydman), 'Street Address/Apt/Steet' (123 Main Street), 'City' (Tallahassee), 'State' (Florida), 'Zipcode' (00000), 'Country' (013 DIAL), 'Phone Number' (305-123-4567), 'Cell Type' (STU/ME Home Phone), and 'Emergency Contact Name' (Jane Smith). A 'SUBMIT' button is at the bottom right.



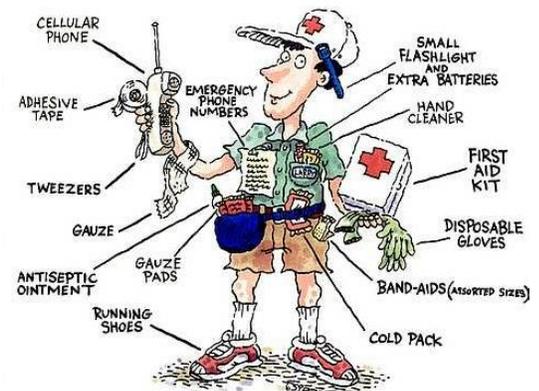
BUILD AND MAINTAIN AN EMERGENCY KIT

An emergency supply kit is a collection of necessary items you may need in the event of an emergency. [Be prepared and assemble your kit well in advance of an emergency.](#) You may have to evacuate at a moment's notice and take essentials with you. You will probably not have time to search for the supplies you need or shop for them.

[You may need to survive on your own after an emergency.](#) This means having your own food, water and other supplies in sufficient quantity to last for **at least 72 hours**. Local officials and relief workers will be on scene after a disaster and may not reach everyone immediately. Help may arrive in hours or it may take days. Additionally, basic services such as electricity, gas, water, sewage treatment and telephones may be cut off for days or even a week, or longer. Your supply kit should contain items to help you manage during these outages.

A basic emergency supply kit could include the following recommended items:

- ✓ Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- ✓ Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- ✓ Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- ✓ Flashlight and extra batteries
- ✓ First aid kit
- ✓ Whistle to signal for help
- ✓ Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- ✓ Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- ✓ Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- ✓ Manual can opener for food
- ✓ Local maps (ex: [Miami-Dade Storm Surge Planning Zones](#))
- ✓ Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger



Source: *Learn to Prepare - learntoprepare.com*

For more information regarding disaster kits including information about how to maintain your kit and creating more advanced kits, please visit <http://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit>.

EVACUATION INFORMATION

If an evacuation order is issued by Miami-Dade County, the campus will follow the policies and procedures outlined in the University's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (an abbreviated copy of the plan is included in this guide). Miami-Dade County has Evacuation Centers that will open; however, the Centers should be considered as a last resort.

If you need to evacuate the County suggests that you bring:

- ✓ Bedding
- ✓ Cash
- ✓ Personal hygiene items
- ✓ Comfort materials, such as books, magazines, etc.
- ✓ Prescription and emergency medications
- ✓ Drinking water
- ✓ Snacks
- ✓ Extra clothing

To obtain additional information regarding Miami-Dade County's Emergency Evacuation Centers, call 3-1-1 or go to www.miamidade.gov/fire/evacuations.asp.



From May 31 through June 6, 2019, [qualifying items](#) related to disaster preparedness are exempt from sales tax.

The sales tax holiday does not apply to the rental or repair of any of the qualifying items. Additionally, the sales tax holiday does not apply to sales in a theme park, entertainment complex, public lodging establishment or airport.

Source: *Miami-Dade Emergency Management*

THUNDERSTORMS AND LIGHTNING

All thunderstorms are dangerous. While lightning fatalities have decreased over the past 30 years, lightning continues to be one of the top three storm-related killers in the United States. In 2010 there were 29 fatalities and 182 injuries from lightning. Although most lightning victims survive, people struck by lightning often report a variety of long-term, debilitating symptoms.

Other associated dangers of thunderstorms include tornadoes, strong winds, hail and flash flooding. Flash flooding is responsible for more fatalities – over 140 annually – than any other thunderstorm-associated hazard. Dry thunderstorms that do not produce rain that reaches the ground are most prevalent in the western United States. Falling raindrops evaporate, but lightning can still reach the ground and can start wildfires.

PREPARING FOR A THUNDERSTORM

To prepare for a thunderstorm, you should do the following:

- Postpone outdoor activities.
- Remember the 30/30 Lightning Safety Rule: Go indoors if, after seeing lightning, you cannot count to 30 before hearing thunder. Stay indoors for 30 minutes after hearing the last clap of thunder.
- Secure outdoor objects that could blow away or cause damage.
- Get inside a home, building, or hard top automobile (not a convertible). Although you may be injured if lightning strikes your car, you are much safer inside a vehicle than outside.
- Remember, rubber-soled shoes and rubber tires provide NO protection from lightning. However, the steel frame of a hard-topped vehicle provides increased protection if you are not touching metal.
- Unplug any electronic equipment well before the storm arrives.

STU NOTIFICATION PROTOCOL

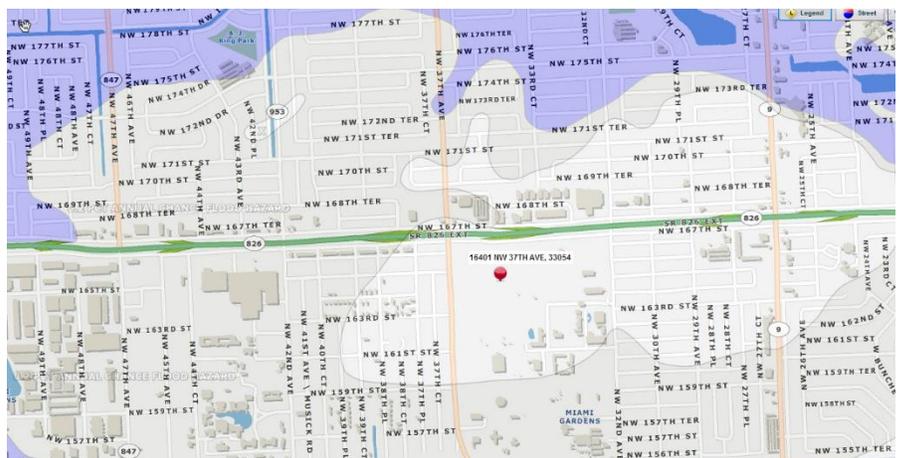
- ✓ Notification will be sent via email and/or text message depending on the severity of the storm.

If an injury or damage occurred after the storm, contact Public Safety at (305) 628-6500 or extension 6500 to file a report.

FLASH FLOODING

According to the National Weather Service, a flash flood is a result of heavy localized rainfall such as that from slow moving intense thunderstorms. Flash floods often result from small creeks and streams overflowing during heavy rainfall. These floods often become raging torrents of water which rip through river beds, city streets, coastal sections and valleys or canyons, sweeping everything with them. Flash Flooding usually occurs within 6 hours of a heavy rain event.

Due to the unique geographical area of Miami-Dade County, it is particularly susceptible to flooding from major rain events and storms. The geographical area is comprised of surrounded by major water bodies, sits below the sea level and the underground water supply is just below the ground surface.



STU DETAILS AND NOTIFICATION PROTOCOL

St. Thomas University has a flood zone designation of D/X. This means that flooding is possible, but historical data has not indicated that flooding is typical for the area. The National Weather Service monitors local weather conditions. If flooding from rain is anticipated, the Service will broadcast Flood Warning Notices through local television and radio.

TORNADOES

Tornadoes are nature's most violent storms. Spawned from powerful thunderstorms, tornadoes can cause fatalities and devastate a neighborhood in seconds. A tornado appears as a rotating, funnel-shaped cloud that extends from a thunderstorm to the ground with whirling winds that can reach 300 miles per hour. Damage paths can be in excess of one mile wide and 50 miles long. Every state is at some risk from this hazard.

Some tornadoes are clearly visible, while rain or nearby low-hanging clouds obscure others. Occasionally, tornadoes develop so rapidly that little, if any, advance warning is possible. Before a tornado hits, the wind may die down and the air may become very still. A cloud of debris can mark the location of a tornado even if a funnel is not visible. Tornadoes generally occur near the trailing edge of a thunderstorm. It is not uncommon to see clear, sunlit skies behind a tornado.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR A TORNADO

- ✓ Listen to commercial radio or television newscasts for the latest information. In any emergency, always listen to the instructions given by local emergency management officials.
- ✓ Be alert to changing weather conditions. Look for approaching storms.
- ✓ Look for the following danger signs:
 - Dark, often greenish sky
 - Large hail
 - A large, dark, low-lying cloud (particularly if rotating)
 - Loud roar, similar to a freight train.
 - If you see approaching storms or any of the danger signs, be prepared to take shelter immediately.

WHAT TO DO DURING A TORNADO

If you are under a tornado warning, seek shelter immediately! Most injuries associated with high winds are from flying debris, so remember to protect your head. If available, put on a bicycle or motorcycle helmet to protect yourself from head injuries.

If you are in a structure:

- ✓ Go to a pre-designated shelter area such as a safe room or the lowest building level.
- ✓ Go to the center of an interior room on the lowest level (closet, interior hallway) away from corners, windows, doors, and outside walls.
- ✓ Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside.
- ✓ Get under a sturdy table and use your arms to protect your head and neck.
- ✓ In a multi-story building, go to a small interior room or hallway on the lowest floor possible.
- ✓ If available, put on a bicycle or motorcycle helmet to protect yourself from head injuries.
- ✓ Put on sturdy shoes.
- ✓ Do not open windows.

If you are outside with no shelter:

- ✓ Immediately get into a vehicle, buckle your seat belt and try to drive to the closest sturdy shelter.
- ✓ If your vehicle is hit by flying debris while you are driving, pull over and park.
- ✓ Stay in the car with the seat belt on. Put your head down below the windows; cover your head with your hands and a blanket, coat or other cushion if possible.
- ✓ If you can safely get noticeably lower than the level of the roadway, leave your car and lie in that area, covering your head with your hands.
- ✓ Do not get under an overpass or bridge. You are safer in a low, flat location.
- ✓ Never try to outrun a tornado in urban or congested areas in a car or truck. Instead, leave the vehicle immediately for safe shelter.
- ✓ Watch out for flying debris. Flying debris from tornadoes causes most fatalities and injuries.

WHAT TO DO AFTER A TORNADO

Injury may result from the direct impact of a tornado or it may occur afterward when people walk among debris and enter damaged buildings.

Check for injuries. Do not attempt to move seriously injured people unless they are in immediate danger of further injury. Call Public Safety immediately at (305) 628-6500 or extension 6500. If someone has stopped breathing, begin CPR if you are trained to do so. Stop a bleeding injury by applying direct pressure to the wound. Have any puncture wound evaluated by a physician. If you are trapped, try to attract attention to your location.

STU NOTIFICATION PROTOCOL

- ✓ An email and text message will be sent to the campus community.

TROPICAL STORMS AND HURRICANES

History teaches that a lack of hurricane awareness and preparation are common threads among all major hurricane disasters. By knowing your vulnerability and what actions you should take, you can reduce the effects of a hurricane disaster.

The hazards associated with hurricanes come in many forms, including storm surge, heavy rainfall, inland flooding, high winds, tornadoes, and rip currents. The National Weather Service is responsible for protecting life and property through issuance of timely watches and warnings, but it is essential that you are ready before a storm approaches.

Hurricane Season: The six-month period from **June 1 – November 30** is considered hurricane season (the time when hurricanes are most likely to form).

Miami Dade County Hurricane Guide: <http://www.miamidade.gov/hurricane/>

Changes to issuance of tropical storm and hurricane watches and warnings: Watches and warnings for tropical storms and hurricanes along threatened coastal areas will be issued 12 hours earlier than in previous years. Tropical storm watches will be issued when tropical storm conditions are possible along the coast within 48 hours. Tropical storm warnings will be issued when those conditions are expected within 36 hours. Similar increases in lead time will apply to hurricane watches and warnings. This will give authorities more time for decision-making and implementing response activities such as evacuation.

Tropical Storm: An organized system of strong thunderstorms with a defined circulation and top winds of 39-73 MPH. Tropical Storms can quickly develop into hurricanes. Storms are named when they reach Tropical Storm strength.

Hurricane: An intense tropical weather system with a well-defined circulation and a sustained wind speed of 74 MPH or higher.

SAFFIR SIMPSON SCALE OF HURRICANE WIND INTENSITY

Category 1: 74-95 MPH

Category 2: 96-110 MPH

Category 3: 111-129 MPH

Category 4: 130-156 MPH

Category 5: 157 MPH or more

HOW TO PREPARE BEFORE A HURRICANE

To prepare for a hurricane, you should take the following measures:

- ✓ To begin preparing, you should build an emergency kit.
- ✓ Know your surroundings.
- ✓ Familiarize yourself with Miami-Dade County's hurricane evacuation routes and how to find higher ground. Determine where you would go and how you would get there if you needed to evacuate.
- ✓ Learn the location of your designated evacuation center so you can go there if you cannot stay with friends or family that are outside the storm surge planning zones. Be sure to check these on a yearly basis as they may change.
- ✓ Learn the location of gas stations, supermarkets, big box stores and hardware stores that have generators and can operate during blackouts.

WHAT TO DO DURING A HURRICANE

If a hurricane is likely in the area, you should:

- ✓ Listen to the radio or TV for information.
- ✓ Unplug devices that you do not need and turn the refrigerator thermostat to its coldest setting and keep its doors closed.
- ✓ Avoid using the phone, except for serious emergencies.
- ✓ Ensure an adequate supply of water for sanitary purpose such as cleaning and flushing toilets. Fill the bathtub and other larger containers with water.
- ✓ Find out how to keep food safe during and after an emergency.

If you are directed by local authorities to evacuate, you should do so. Be sure to follow their instructions.

If you are unable to evacuate, go to a wind-safe room. If you do not have one, follow these guidelines:

- ✓ Stay indoors during the hurricane and away from windows and glass doors.
- ✓ Close all interior doors – secure and brace external doors.
- ✓ Keep curtains and blinds closed. Do not be fooled if there is a lull; it could be the eye of the storm – winds will pick up again.
- ✓ Take refuge in a small interior room, closet or hallway on the lowest level.
- ✓ Lie on the floor under a table or another sturdy object.
- ✓ Avoid elevators.

WHAT TO DO AFTER A HURRICANE

- ✓ Continue listening to a Weather Radio or the local news for the latest updates.
- ✓ Stay alert for extended rainfall and subsequent flooding even after the hurricane or tropical storm has ended.
- ✓ If you have become separated from your family, use your family communications plan or contact FEMA or the American Red Cross.
- ✓ FEMA has established the National Emergency Family Registry and Locator System (NEFRS), which has been developed to help reunite families who are separated during a disaster. The NEFRS system will enable displaced individuals the ability to enter personal information into a website database so that they can be located by others during a disaster.
- ✓ The American Red Cross also maintains a database to help you find family. Contact the local American Red Cross chapter where you are staying for information. Do not contact the chapter in the disaster area.
- ✓ If you evacuated, return home or campus only when officials say it is safe.
- ✓ If you cannot return home and have immediate housing needs. Text SHELTER + your ZIP code to 43362 (4FEMA) to find the nearest shelter in your area (example: shelter 12345).
- ✓ Drive only if necessary and avoid flooded roads and washed out bridges. Stay off the streets. If you must go out watch for fallen objects; downed electrical wires; and weakened walls, bridges, roads, and sidewalks.
- ✓ Keep away from loose or dangling power lines and report them immediately to the power company.
- ✓ Stay out of any building if you smell gas, floodwaters remain around the building or your home was damaged by fire and the authorities have not declared it safe.
- ✓ Use battery-powered flashlights in the dark. Do NOT use candles. Note: The flashlight should be turned on outside before entering - the battery may produce a spark that could ignite leaking gas, if present.
- ✓ Avoid drinking or preparing food with tap water until you are sure it's not contaminated.
- ✓ Check refrigerated food for spoilage. If in doubt, throw it out.
- ✓ Wear protective clothing and be cautious when cleaning up to avoid injury.
- ✓ Use the telephone only for emergency calls.

GUIDELINES FOR RESIDENTIAL STUDENTS

- ✓ Before you leave your room, completely empty and unplug your refrigerators, and wrap towels around the base to absorb water after they defrost.
- ✓ Take your most important belongings, valuable possessions and personal documents with you.
- ✓ Take your course materials.
- ✓ STU is not responsible for any personal effects, including vehicles that are left behind following an evacuation. STU will take reasonable steps to prevent theft during an evacuation. Know what your family's homeowner's policy covers in your

residence hall room. In general, homeowner's insurance will not cover flood damage. To protect from flood damage, consider getting flood insurance. A further note on protecting your belongings: Renters insurance may or may not cover possessions in your residence hall room. If you think your belongings may be covered by renter's insurance, please contact your insurance broker to be sure that your possessions are insured.

- ✓ Unplug all power cords before leaving.
- ✓ Close and lock your windows tightly (do not tape them).
- ✓ Remove your trash.
- ✓ Lock your door.
- ✓ Remember to move and cover electronic items and keep items that may be damaged by water off the floor.
- ✓ As a storm approaches, fill your gas tank and prepare your vehicle for travel. Gas supplies may be hard to find during an evacuation. Prices for gasoline may also increase with demand.
- ✓ Take your vehicle with you, if possible. If this is not possible, Public Safety will notify the campus where vehicles should be parked during a storm.
- ✓ Many fuel stations in Miami-Dade County provide generator powered services after a hurricane, if there is a power outage. However this does not mean fuel is always available.<http://www.miamidade.gov/fire/library/hurricane/gas-stations-with-generators.pdf>

RETURNING TO STU

Non-essential personnel should not return to campus until the university has issued the "all clear" and provided re-opening instructions.

The severity and intensity of the damage caused by the storm, the storm's current location and impact on transportation corridors, will heavily contribute to decisions to reoccupy the campus.

All students, faculty, and staff who evacuated from the area should continually monitor news and other media services for up-to-date information regarding returning to campus. In less severe situations, students, faculty and staff should anticipate returning to campus within 24-48 hours after the storm has passed. During extreme situations, the campus may delay as much as 1-2 weeks before reoccupying the campus with non-essential personnel.

STU NOTIFICATION PROTOCOL

- ✓ An email, text message, and automated phone call will be sent to the campus community.
- ✓ 877-STU-Plan will be updated regularly with updates.
- ✓ The university home page will be updated regularly with updates.

EXCESSIVE HEAT

Heat kills by pushing the human body beyond its limits. In extreme heat and high humidity, evaporation is slowed, and the body must work extra hard to maintain a normal temperature.

Most heat disorders occur because the victim has been overexposed to heat or has over-exercised for his or her age and physical condition. Older adults, young children and those who are sick, or overweight are more likely to succumb to extreme heat.

Conditions that can induce heat-related illnesses include stagnant atmospheric conditions and poor air quality. Consequently, people living in urban areas may be at greater risk from the effects of a prolonged heat wave than those living in rural areas. Also, asphalt and concrete store heat longer and gradually release heat at night, which can produce higher nighttime temperatures known as the "urban heat island effect."

DURING EXTREME HEAT

- ✓ Stay indoors as much as possible and limit exposure to the sun.
- ✓ Stay on the lowest floor out of the sunshine if air conditioning is not available.
- ✓ Eat well-balanced, light, and regular meals. Avoid using salt tablets unless directed to do so by a physician.
- ✓ Drink plenty of water; even if you do not feel thirsty. Avoid drinks with caffeine. Persons who have epilepsy or heart, kidney, or liver disease; are on fluid-restricted diets; or have a problem with fluid retention should consult a doctor before increasing liquid intake.

- ✓ Dress in loose-fitting, lightweight, and light-colored clothes that cover as much skin as possible. Avoid dark colors because they absorb the sun's rays.
- ✓ Protect face and head by wearing a wide-brimmed hat.
- ✓ Avoid extreme temperature changes.

STU NOTIFICATION PROTOCOL

The university will continually monitor the conditions and send an alert, if necessary.

DROUGHT

Nearly every part of our country experiences periods of reduced rainfall. If we plan for drought, then we can enjoy the benefits of normal or rainy years and not get caught unprepared in dry years. Never pour water down the drain when there may be another use for it.

STU NOTIFICATION PROTOCOL

- ✓ The university will continually monitor the conditions and send an alert, if necessary.

STAY INFORMED. BE PREPARED.

STUAlert

In situations that require immediate action, STUAlerts will send students, faculty, and staff notifications via voicemail, text, email, and/or desktop alert.

Update your info at mybobcat.stu.edu



Weather Emergencies

HURRICANE WATCH

Conditions possible within the next 48 hours

HURRICANE WARNING

Conditions are expected within 36 hours

The Atlantic hurricane season runs from JUNE 1 TO NOVEMBER 30 and peaks between mid-August and late October.

On average, there are 12 TROPICAL STORMS ANNUALLY, 6 OF WHICH BECOME HURRICANES. These form over the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, or Gulf of Mexico during the hurricane season.

STU is StormReady®!
Are you?



www.stu.edu/emergency



CONTACT INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

EMERGENCY:	911 or 9-911 (from office phone)
Public Safety:	(305) 628-6500
Public Safety On-Call Cell:	(786) 295-9692
Campus Switchboard:	(305) 625-6000
STU Plan	(877) STU-Plan or (877) 788-7526
Physical Plant/Maintenance:	(305) 628-6594
City of Miami Gardens Police:	(305) 474-6473
Florida Highway Patrol:	(305) 470-2500



Miami-Dade County

Miami Dade Fire Department:	(305) 759-2468
Information Call Center:	(305) 468-5900
(In County)	311

Broward County

Information Call Center:	(954) 831-4000
(In County)	311



Emergency Related Internet Resources

National Hurricane Center - (<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>)

Federal Emergency Management Agency - (<http://www.fema.gov/>)

American Red Cross Hurricane App - (<http://www.redcross.org/mobile-apps/hurricane-app>)

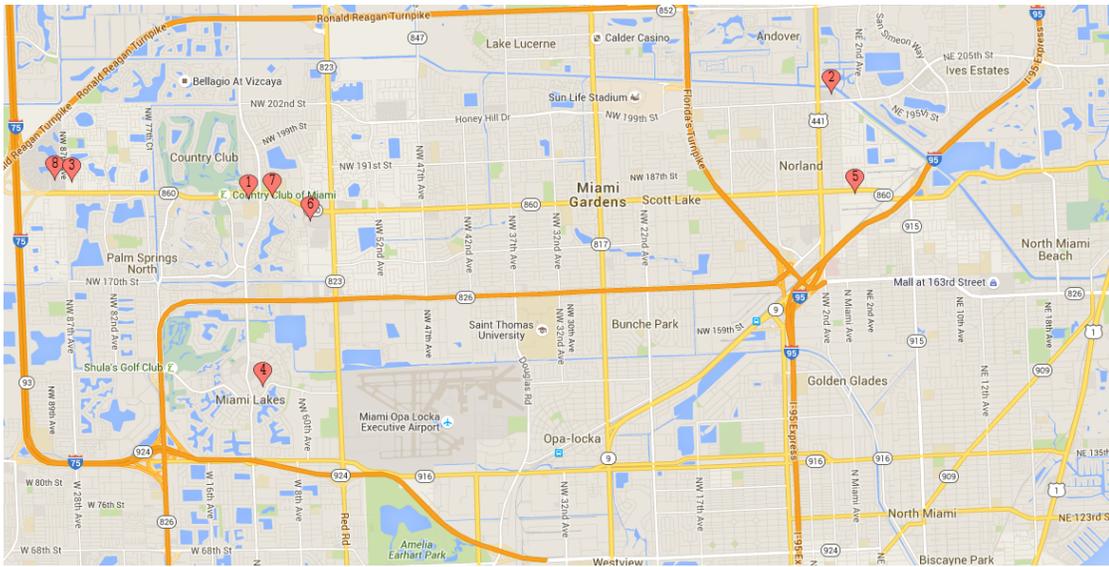
Florida Division of Emergency Management - (<http://www.floridadisaster.org/>)

Miami Dade County Emergency Management - (<http://www.miamidade.gov/oem>)

List of Miami-Dade County Hurricane Evacuation Centers - (<http://www.miamidade.gov/fire/evacuations.asp>)

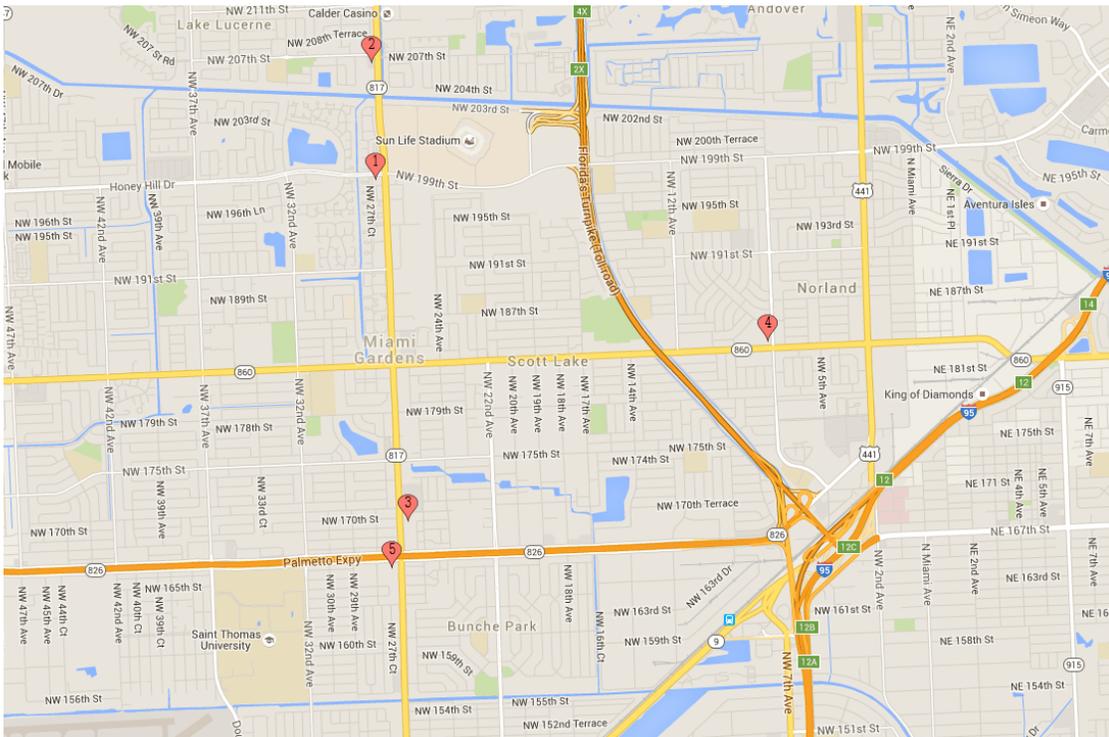
LOCAL GROCERY, PHARMACY AND HARDWARE STORES WITH GENERATORS

PUBLIX, WINN DIXIE AND SEDANO'S LOCATIONS



- 1 Publix 18496 NW 67th Ave, Hialeah, FL 33015, USA
- 2 Publix 19955 NW 2nd Ave, North Miami Beach, FL 33169, USA
- 3 Publix 8601 NW 186 St, Hialeah, FL 33015, USA
- 4 Publix 15000 Miami Lakes Dr, Hialeah, FL 33014, USA
- 5 Publix 100 NE 183rd St, Miami, FL 33179, USA
- 6 Winn Dixie 5850 NW 183rd St, Hialeah, FL 33015, USA
- 7 Sedano's 6430 NW 186 St, Hialeah, FL 33015, USA
- 8 Sedano's 18600 NW 87th Ave, Miami, FL 33018, USA

LOCAL GAS STATIONS WITH GENERATORS



- 1 Hess 19880 NW 27th Ave, Miami Gardens, FL 33056, USA
- 2 RaceTrac 20696 NW 27th Ave, Miami Gardens, FL 33056, USA
- 3 RaceTrac 17021 NW 27th Ave, Miami Gardens, FL 33056, USA
- 4 Raceway 18302 NW 7th Ave, Miami, FL 33169, USA
- 5 Dade Corner Travel 16650 NW 27th Ave, Miami Gardens, FL 33054, USA