

Hurricane Preparedness

Hurricanes are among the most destructive, and costly natural disasters on earth. Favor & Company is offering this resource to help fraternity chapters and their house corporations to better prepare properties before a hurricane occurs and to understand best practices actions to take to protect their property and to keep their members safe and secure.

In areas where hurricanes can strike, it is a good idea to have a closet, or an area set aside for storm preparedness storage. There, you can keep items you will need in case disaster strikes suddenly or you need to evacuate.

It is also important to know the difference between a watch and a warning, and when they are issued for tropical storms and hurricanes.

A **hurricane warning** means hurricane conditions – sustained winds above 73 mph – are expected somewhere within the warning area, and it is time to finish preparation to protect people and property. “Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the hurricane warning is issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds” – 39 to 73 mph, the National Hurricane Center says.

A **hurricane watch** means hurricane conditions are possible in the watch area and are issued 48 hours before the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds.

A **tropical storm warning** means tropical-storm-force winds are expected somewhere in the designated area within 36 hours. A tropical storm watch means such conditions are possible within 48 hours.

If the hurricane symbol has a number in it, it indicates the category of the hurricane:

Category 1: 74-95 mph

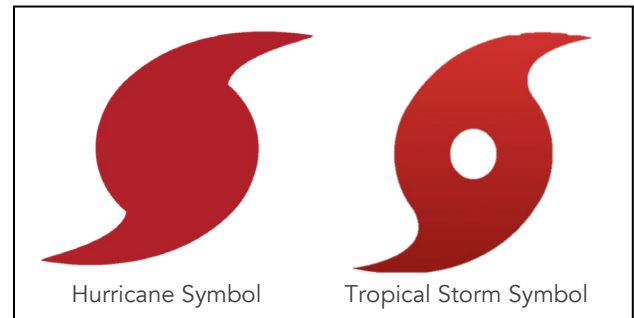
Very dangerous winds will produce some damage: Well-constructed frame homes could have damage to roof, shingles, vinyl siding and gutters. Large branches of trees will snap, and shallowly rooted trees may be toppled. Extensive damage to power lines and poles likely will result in power outages that could last a few to several days.

Category 2: 96-110 mph

Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage: Well-constructed frame homes could sustain major roof and siding damage. Many shallowly rooted trees will be snapped or uprooted and block numerous roads. Near-total power loss is expected with outages that could last from several days to weeks.

Category 3: 111-129 mph

Devastating damage will occur: Well-built framed homes may incur major damage or removal of roof decking and gable ends. Many trees will be snapped or uprooted, blocking numerous roads. Electricity and water will be unavailable for several days to weeks after the storm passes.



Category 4: 130-156 mph

Catastrophic damage will occur: Well-built framed homes can sustain severe damage with loss of most of the roof structure and/or some exterior walls. Most trees will be snapped or uprooted, and power poles downed. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.

Category 5: 157 mph or higher

Catastrophic damage will occur: A high percentage of framed homes will be destroyed, with total roof failure and wall collapse. Fallen trees and power poles will isolate residential areas. Power outages will last for weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.

What to Do Before and During a Hurricane?

First, evacuate if you are told to do so by city or campus officials. If local authorities issue an order to evacuate, take it seriously and act quickly. Avoid flooded roads and watch for washed-out bridges. If an evacuation order is in place, riding out the storm could put you and your fraternity brothers in danger. Follow these tips as you prepare for the storm:

- **Make an emergency plan.** Planning will help ensure your fraternity members are all on the same page if a hurricane strikes. Visit www.ready.gov/plan for resources.

- **Know your evacuation route.** If a hurricane is headed your way, you may be asked to evacuate your facility. Knowing your destination and route in advance can help you evacuate quickly when time is of the essence.
- **Secure all outdoor objects** or move them inside. Close storm shutters and board up windows and glass doors as appropriate.
 - If possible, bring in *gas or charcoal grills*, but do not use them indoors. Also, do not store propane tanks inside the house or garage. Chain propane tanks in an upright position to a secure object away from chapter house.
- **Locate important documents.** Store any important fraternity documents in a waterproof container if possible. This includes any historical items, billing items, or irreplaceable fraternity documents. Make sure to back up any important digital records as well.
- **Make a digital recording** of the house, its condition, and its contents.
- **Prepare a “go bag”** that includes items such as water and non-perishable food for everyone; medications; a portable radio; flashlights; batteries; and battery chargers for your cell phones and other portable electronic devices, which can be powered by your car.
- **Fill up your gas tank** on any vehicle you might have. Finding gas immediately before, and soon after a hurricane can be difficult.

Disaster planning

Among the items the CDC recommends you have on hand:

- A minimum **three-day supply of medications**, along with a cooler and ice packs if your medications require refrigeration. Also, if needed, medical supplies such as syringes.
- Contact lens solution, glasses and/or hearing aids and extra batteries for people who need them.
- An identification band with your full name, a list of any allergies and a family-member contact number.
- Documents in a waterproof bag. They should include a personal care plan; contact information for family members; a medication list including the dosage, exact name, pharmacy information and the prescribing doctor for each medication; a list of food or medical allergies; copies of photo IDs and medical insurance cards; and durable power of attorney and/or medical power of attorney documents.
- Cash to be used if automatic teller and credit card machines are not working.

The [CDC](#) also recommends people include additional supplies to address the spread of the coronavirus, flu and other viruses. They include masks for everyone age 2 and older, soap, hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes.



The Department of Homeland Security's [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) site offers a number of emergency resources, including [a list of items](#) that should be in a **basic emergency kit**. Among those suggested:

- 1 gallon of water per day per person for at least three days.
- At least a three-day supply of nonperishable food.
- A battery-powered or hand-crank radio, along with a NOAA weather radio that sends an automatic tone in case of an emergency alert.
- A flashlight and extra batteries.
- A cellphone with chargers and a backup battery.
- A whistle to signal for help.

Universities have emergency plans in place for natural disasters, so make sure you are in touch with your university officials to determine best course of action during and after storm. For more information, please visit [hurricanesafety.org](https://www.hurricanesafety.org) and [The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](https://www.noaa.gov).

What to Do After a Hurricane?

After it is confirmed by authorities that the storm has passed and it is safe to return to your chapter facility or go outdoors, you can begin to assess any potential damage to your chapter house and property. Follow these tips after the storm is over:

- If you were evacuated, **return only after authorities advise it is safe** to do so.
- **Avoid downed power lines.** Never touch anything in contact with power lines, including water or water puddles that may be near the downed power lines.
- **Protect your property from further damage** by boarding up broken windows to help deter vandalism or additional weather damage. Arrange for reasonable temporary repairs.
- **Be wary of any gas lines** that may have been damaged or broken during the storm. If a gas leak is suspected, stay out of the property until the utility company deems it safe.
- **Be cautious of hazards** that are a product of the storm, such as water due to flooding, sharp or broken objects, damaged tree limbs or other structures that may have been damaged by high winds or water.
- **Keep accurate records** of your expenses and save bills and receipts from your temporary repairs. (Avoid making permanent repairs until your claim adjuster has reviewed the damage.) Keep accurate records of any other expenses incurred.
- **Separate and inventory any damaged property.** Create a list of any damaged contents, including a description of the item, name of the manufacturer, brand name, age, as well as the place and date of purchase, if known. Include photographs, recordings, or property inventories you may already have available.

- If you think your property might be unsafe due to storm damage, please contact Favor & Company to discuss **finding temporary accommodations**.

To file a claim, please contact [Favor & Company](#) immediately. If you have any questions regarding damage or safety, do not hesitate to contact us.

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