

HURRICANE EVACUATION INFORMATION

Hurricane season lasts from June 1 to November 30. Because New Orleans is below sea level and surrounded by water, people who live here pay special attention to weather reports during these months. Before a hurricane enters the Gulf, you should develop your own evacuation plan. You don't need to panic! A hurricane moves slowly, giving us time to implement our evacuation plan. Individuals who reside in trailers will be required to evacuate their trailers in the event of severe tropical storm or Category 1 or 2 hurricane. New Orleans city officials will call for a city-wide evacuation if Southeast Louisiana is directly threatened by a Category 3 hurricane or above. Of course, UNO would close in this situation and all buildings would be locked. Students and scholars living on campus would have to leave their dorm rooms and apartments. Students are encouraged not to make airline reservations for winter break until the end of October due to the possibility of the fall semester being extended for university closure during an emergency. Here are some suggestions for getting out of the city if an evacuation is ordered.

FIRST, STAY INFORMED

The local news stations will have detailed information about the storm. The following two radio stations are part of the Emergency Alert System and will have information on road conditions, shelter locations and reentry information: **870 AM** and **101.9 FM**.

Register for UNO's text notification service, <http://uno2.uno.edu/ucc/E2Campus/e2Campus.htm>. Check the UNO website, <http://www.uno.edu> to find out if the university will close, or call the main phone number, **504-280-6000**. If the University closes, recorded information will be available. If you live on campus, check with Student Housing or Privateer Place to find out when you must evacuate. Please review the University Emergency Preparedness information at <http://www.uno.edu/ehso/emergency-preparedness.aspx?ga=2.175564129.218833625.1526309382-632926609.1494953681> and the Campus Evacuation Plan at <http://www.uno.edu/ehso/documents/campus-evacuation-plan.pdf>

There are two good websites that offer detailed information on tropical storms, with regular updates and projections, emergency preparedness information, and much more. The National Hurricane Center (which offers information in English and Spanish) can be found at <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov>. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) can be found at <http://www.fema.gov>.

Please keep OISS updated on your plans by filing a Personal Evacuation Plan at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/UNOevac2018>

WHERE TO GO

When everyone is leaving the city, it can be difficult to find a hotel, so people end up driving far away as they look for a vacancy. You can avoid this problem by making a reservation as soon as it looks like you may need to evacuate; you can always cancel the reservation if it becomes obvious that evacuation is unnecessary. The later you leave, the farther you'll have to go to find a room. There are several inexpensive motel chains that can be found throughout the Southeast, in small towns as well as in larger cities: **Motel 6**, **Days Inn**, **Super 8**, and **Comfort Inn** are a few examples. You can find their national numbers in the Yellow Pages or you can check their websites online. (This is merely for your information; UNO does not endorse or recommend any particular hotel chain.)

Motel 6
Days Inn

<http://www.motel6.com>
<http://www.daysinn.com>

Super 8
Comfort Inn

<http://www.super8.com>
<http://www.comfortinn.com>

Red Cross shelters will be set up outside of the New Orleans metropolitan area in such places as Hammond, Baton Rouge, Alexandria, or even as far north as Monroe, Louisiana, and Vicksburg, Mississippi. If you want to go to a Red Cross shelter rather than to a hotel you should plan to bring with you a blanket, non-perishable food, and water. (See the section on what to bring). Listen to the Emergency Alert System radio channels listed above to find out where Red Cross shelters will be located.

HOW TO GO

CAR: If you have a car, check with your friends to see if others need a ride. Do not wait until the last minute to leave the city. Remember that everyone else is leaving too, and traffic will move so slowly that it can take several hours to go just 100 miles. Leave the city with a full tank of gas and a map. To avoid the worst traffic, try leaving in the early morning. Consider driving north on Interstate 59 instead of west on Interstate 10. Once outside of the city you may want to get off the Interstate and travel the smaller highways to avoid traffic jams.

At some point, the Louisiana State Police will direct all lanes of traffic on the major highways to flow out from the city. Prior to your departure, make sure you understand the various "contra-flow" evacuation routes. Contra-flow maps and more information are available at http://www.lsp.org/pdf/2016EmergencyGuide_English.pdf.

TRAIN: Only two trains leave New Orleans on a daily basis, so if you use this method, you need to make your arrangements as soon as it becomes clear that evacuation is necessary. The Crescent City leaves at 7:00 am and travels all the way to New York; the first six stops after Slidell are Picayune, MS, Hattiesburg, MS; Laurel, MS; Meridian, MS; Tuscaloosa, AL; and Birmingham, AL. The City of New Orleans leaves every day at 1:45 pm headed for Chicago. The first eight stops out of New Orleans are Hammond, LA; McComb, MS; Brookhaven, MS; Hazelhurst, MS; Jackson, MS; and Yazoo City, MS; Greenwood, MS, and Memphis, TN. Other routes do exist and are available but not every day. Prices vary, of course, but as an example, a round trip ticket to Memphis, TN will cost around \$130. It can be cheaper when people travel in groups and there are student discounts but only if a discount card is purchased first. An advantage of evacuating by train is that Amtrak allows you to put an option on the reservation of your seat onboard until the departure time of your train at no charge at all. Trains also offer more comfort than buses. For more details, you can call **1-800-USA-RAIL** or check the website at <http://www.amtrak.com>.

BUS: The bus can be cheaper than train if booked far in advance but it would not be applicable in the case of a hurricane evacuation. Most buses do not offer direct routes and have to make connections in Baton Rouge which might make your trip longer than on the train, but on the other hand, there are many more options and destinations available by bus. You should rapidly pick your destination, make sure you can get there by bus, make your hotel or shelter arrangements, then buy your bus ticket. (As an example, a round trip bus ticket to Memphis, TN costs around \$85 and depending on how far in advance it was purchased). You can reach Greyhound bus by calling **1-800-231-2222** or, locally, **504-524-7571**. You can find the website at <http://www.greyhound.com/>.

UNO BUS: Limited bus transportation is available to evacuate those resident and international students who are unable to evacuate on their own. These students may only bring minimal personal belongings that they are able to hold on their lap. NO SUITCASES are allowed and all personal belongings must be in a book bag or small duffel/gym bag.

YOUR LOCAL CONSULATE: Please contact your nearest consulate as they might have evacuation options to offer you and will most likely want to know what your plans are even if you are not evacuating with them.

BEFORE THE STORM

- Prepare your disaster kit (See section on What to Bring)
- Pick up an "Evacuation Guide" from the OISS office, which contains additional information about evacuation. These guides may also be available at some convenience stores and restaurants throughout the city.
- Use Webstar to update your alternate e-mail address. In the event your UNO e-mail does not work, OISS will use an alternate e-mail address to communicate with you.
- Plan where you will go, how you will get there, and when you will depart
- Notify your family and friends of your evacuation plans
- File your Hurricane Personal Evacuation Plan with the OISS

WHAT TO BRING

You should prepare your disaster evacuation kit (items below) before the start of hurricane season. When evacuating, take these items with you:

- Prescription medication and first aid kit
- Clothing and bedding including sleeping bags, blankets and pillows
- Battery operated radio, flashlight, and extra batteries
- Enough non-perishable food and water for at least 3 days (1gallon per person per day)
- Immigration documents including passport, I-20 or DS 2019 and I-94 card
- Other important documents such as: social security card, proof of residence, birth & marriage certificates, insurance policies, tax records, etc.
- Important books, laptop, etc.
- Cell phone and charger
- Car keys and maps
- Written instructions on how to turn off electricity, gas and water if authorities advise you to do so (you will need a professional to turn them back on)
- Contact information for UNO: 504-280-6000; <http://www.uno.edu>.

AFTER THE STORM

Monitor the UNO website regularly to find out when the institution will re-open. If the website is unavailable, OISS will post updates on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/oiss.uno. Check your UNO and/or alternate e-mail for specific instructions from OISS staff.