

## **Student Disaster Preparedness Tips**

1. Have a plan for where you will go, with whom you will stay, and how you will get there in advance of a storm threat. Discuss this plan in advance with your family, close friends, coaches and other persons who may need to know your whereabouts. Provide appropriate names, addresses, e-mail addresses and phone numbers so persons who need to get in contact with you may do so. **DO THIS WELL IN ADVANCE OF HURRICANE SEASON.**

2. Purchase renter's insurance, especially if you live in local apartments or University housing. The State of Louisiana, The University of Louisiana System, and McNeese State University DO NOT provide for repair or replacement of lost, damaged or stolen personal property within residence halls. Privately owned apartment complexes usually do not insure personal contents of their occupants. **DO THIS WELL IN ADVANCE OF HURRICANE SEASON.**

### **When a storm forms or enters the Gulf of Mexico:**

Follow the progression of the storm on the McNeese website and the media, including the National Hurricane Center ([www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov)).

Frequently check your McNeese e-mail account for campus updates.

Charge your cell phone and make certain that you have all important phone numbers and e-mail addresses securely stored and back up all computer data onto a portable drive.

Make sure you have easy access to personal identification (driver's license, student ID, passport), credit cards and other personal items that you would want to take with you during an evacuation. International students should always keep visa documents, I-20, I-94, and related items with them in an evacuation.

### **If Southwest Louisiana or Southeast Texas is in the possible landfall zone:**

Decide where you will go if an evacuation is necessary.

Have the fluid levels and tires on your car checked and fill it with gasoline.

Obtain a sufficient amount of cash and make certain that you have an adequate supply of prescription medications.

Check with employers about their closure and evacuation plans.

### **If an Evacuation is Ordered:**

Contact family and friends and let them know you are evacuating and confirm points of contact where they can reach you. If you are from the immediate Calcasieu Parish area, you may wish to arrange to join your family for evacuation of the area.

Take essential clothing, personal items (jewelry, cash, credit cards, medications, eyeglasses, contact lens) financial and personal records, school supplies, textbooks, work and/or athletic uniforms, laptop computers and cell phones with you. International students should always keep visa documents, I-20, I-94, and related items with them in an evacuation. Assume that you will not be able to access your on or off campus apartment for several days and make certain that you have all of the items you might need with you.

Follow the instructions of University officials that relate to timely and orderly evacuation and closure of buildings, residence halls, parking lots, and interior campus streets and cessation of campus operations in preparation for a campus closure.

**Residence Students:**

Lock all of your belongings in your room, including items you might normally leave in your bathroom or in the common living area of your suite. This will help ensure your belongings are located in a central place, are easily identifiable as yours, and are secure during the evacuation and closure period.

Discard all perishable foods and non-perishable foods that are opened. Without electricity fruit will mold quickly and opened non-perishables such as chips or crackers will attract ants and mold as well. The university is not responsible for any food items lost due to spoilage.

Clean out your refrigerator.

Unplug electrical equipment.

Move all items away from the windows.

Students with limited or no transportation to evacuate will be directed to Calcasieu Parish evacuation transportation locations. You must understand you will not be able to pick and choose where you are going under these circumstances and you will only be able to take the minimal essentials with you.

Check the McNeese website and your McNeese e-mail for updates and monitor local and national media and weather broadcasts for updates.

In the event of a relatively small weather event, you may be advised to shelter in place in your residence hall or other dwelling, assuming you deem your dwelling safe for such shelter. You may also be advised to relocate from campus housing to a central shelter if conditions so warrant. You should keep on hand sufficient non-perishable foods and water to sustain you for 3-5 days in the event of local power outages and inconveniences that could result from a serious weather event.

Small weather events may result in temporary power outages and other interruptions and inconveniences. Tropical storms and Category 1 and Category 2 hurricanes may cause such interruptions and inconveniences for one to five days or longer.