

# Planning

The information in this guide will assist you in making preparations according to the phases outlined in the university's plan. Please become familiar with this information.

## Standby Alert

(48-96 hours before expected impact)

**Storm Forecast:** The National Weather Service predicts that a tropical system will enter the Gulf of Mexico, or conditions are right for the formation of a storm already in the Gulf of Mexico.

### What you should do:

- Follow the storm progression. Visit the Nicholls website at [www.nicholls.edu](http://www.nicholls.edu) and the National Hurricane Center website at [www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov).
- Call your parents and discuss your evacuation plans and means of communication if you should have to leave.
- Charge your cell phone and write down important telephone numbers. Back up computer data, and take a copy with you.
- Make sure that you have plenty of non-perishable food items and, if necessary, an adequate supply of medications.
- Prepare an emergency bag to take with you in case an evacuation is ordered (see list below).

## Phase 1

(48-36 hours before expected impact)

**Storm Forecast:** The tropical system has entered the Gulf of Mexico or has made landfall on the outer edges of the Gulf and is expected to re-enter the Gulf. The south Louisiana area is within the probability of the landfall zone.

### What you should do:

- Follow the storm progression. Visit the Nicholls website at [www.nicholls.edu](http://www.nicholls.edu) and the National Hurricane Center website at [www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov) for updates.
- Call your parents again to finalize your plans. Inform resident assistants and staff if you are making adjustments to your Student Self-Reporting Emergency Evacuation Information Form.
- Have your car serviced and filled with gas (if applicable).
- Obtain a map of evacuation routes.
- Purchase any necessary food and supplies.
- Gather emergency supplies in case you will need to evacuate.

## Phase 2

(36-24 hours before expected impact)

**Storm Forecast:** The tropical system has entered the Gulf of Mexico. South Louisiana is in the landfall zone, although not in the high probability zone, and is expected to feel the effects of the storm.

### What you should do:

The university may decide to cancel classes and ask students to evacuate campus facilities. If this happens all residents need to finalize all travel plans and MUST:

- 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.
- Unplug your refrigerator. Put a towel under the refrigerator and leave the refrigerator door open.
- Unplug electrical equipment.
- Move all items away from the windows.
- Pick up all electronic devices off the floor and cover them with plastic.
- Store textbooks and loose objects on a shelf or in a closet.
- Fill your vehicle with gas (if applicable). If you are not using your vehicle to evacuate, park it in the Ellender or Gouaux parking lots with the emergency brake set.
- Take your emergency bag packed with essentials and other important items or documents.
- Offer a ride to and share sheltering options with other students who need transportation.
- Check out at the front desk. If you are going to a location other than the one indicated on the Student Self-Reporting Emergency Evacuation Information Form, please update your form with your new destination and a contact number.
- If you are an out-of-state or international student who has indicated that you do not have transportation or means to evacuate, housing staff will contact you and keep you updated on your arrangements.

## Phase 3

(36-24 hours before expected impact)

**Storm Forecast:** The tropical system is in the Gulf of Mexico, and south Louisiana is in the high probability landfall zone. The National Weather Service has issued a hurricane warning for south Louisiana that includes the Thibodaux area.

### What you should do:

The university will cancel classes and advise students to evacuate the area. Please follow the same suggestions listed in Phase 2. See above.

## Post Storm Phases 4 and 5

The storm has passed, and the extent of damage is being evaluated.

### What you should do:

- Check the Nicholls website at [www.nicholls.edu](http://www.nicholls.edu) for the updates on the status of the university. Stay tuned to television or radio broadcasts to determine the extent of damage to the campus and the area.
- Contact relatives as soon as possible to let them know where you are and to make necessary plans.

## General Evacuation Information

South Louisiana, including the Thibodaux area, is located in the coastal zone that borders the Gulf of Mexico. It is a great place to live, but requires its residents to have an emergency storm plan ready to put in action when needed. Residents should initiate and/or review their plans before June 1 each year.

Students living on campus should have an emergency storm plan as well. During check-in each summer and fall, on-campus residents will be given a **Student Self-Reporting Emergency Evacuation Information Form**. This form will be completed by each campus resident and submitted to Nicholls State University to let university officials know what your evacuation plan is, if the university should cancel classes and advise residents to evacuate. It is important that the university have this information but it is more important that you as a south Louisiana resident have a well thought-out plan should an evacuation order be issued.

Nicholls may close due to the threat of an approaching storm. If that occurs, the students living in campus facilities will be told to evacuate. It is important that you know where you will be going whether it is home, to a friend's house or to a designated shelter. If you are an out-of-state or international student and have identified on the Student Self-Reporting Emergency Evacuation Information Form that you do not have transportation, the housing staff will contact you regarding options for assistance.

It is a good idea to have storm or emergency supplies on hand. Do not wait until the last minute to buy food, toiletries, batteries, gas and other emergency supplies. This guide will assist you with making emergency plans in a timely manner. Please check the Nicholls website at [www.nicholls.edu](http://www.nicholls.edu) frequently for updates on the progression of the storm and for pertinent information issued by the university. If you have any questions, contact Residence Life Office for more information or clarification at (985)448-4564.

## University Hurricane Emergency Plan

Nicholls has a Hurricane Emergency Plan which can be found on the university website, <http://emergency.nicholls.edu/>. The university has five phases or levels of preparedness that may be implemented before, during and after a possible storm. Once a storm is predicted to enter the Gulf of Mexico, Nicholls will be placed on standby first and will immediately start monitoring the storm. The university will initiate the appropriate phase preparation tasks as needed to minimize damage to its facilities. The University Hurricane Emergency Plan website will give you an idea of steps that will be taken, who will do them and when the phases may be initiated.

## Your Emergency Bag

- Your university ID (Colonel Card) and driver's license, or appropriate identification documents.
- Important papers.
- Basic toiletries – soap, wash cloth, towel, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush and other personal hygiene supplies.
- Small first aid kit and your medicine supply.
- Several changes of clothing and a bag to store dirty or used clothing.
- Your charged cell phone.
- Some spending money and/or credit card.

**If you are evacuating to a shelter, please limit the amount of luggage to one bag and one backpack. Be prepared to stay for up to a week, and make sure you include the following in addition to the items listed above:**

- Bedding, including pillows and blankets, or a sleeping bag.
- Your book bag with items to entertain you (books or other reading materials, battery-operated CD player or radio, cards, games or crossword puzzles).
- Non-perishable food, snacks, beverages and dining supplies (napkins, plastic forks/spoons, can opener, etc.)
- Three-day supply of water. Plan one gallon of water per person per day.
- Flash light with batteries.
- DO NOT BRING: electrical equipment, alcohol, drugs, weapons or pets.

# NICHOLLS STATE UNIVERSITY

## Hurricane Preparedness Guide for On-Campus Residents

