

University of Lynchburg

Hurricane Preparation F.A.Q.

When is hurricane season?

Hurricane season runs from June 1 through November 30, although hurricanes sometimes can develop at other times of the year. Historically, September tends to be the most active month. During this time, tropical depressions and tropical storms also can occur. For information about the types of storms, consult <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov>

When and how does the University of Lynchburg monitor hazardous weather?

University of Lynchburg's Crisis Management Team monitors all potentially hazardous weather-activity, including tropical storms and hurricanes, that might pose a threat to our region. We monitor activity throughout the year and coordinate with state and local emergency management offices and the National Weather Service to make informed decisions regarding University preparedness, operations, and the safety of our campus community members.

What are the main hazards associated with hurricanes?

Hurricanes can bring high winds and gusts, downed trees and powerlines, heavy rainfall and inland flooding are the primary hazards that could impact our campus. Sometimes tornadoes accompany a hurricane. However, every severe weather event is unique in the hazards it may bring.

Is the campus susceptible to flooding from a hurricane?

The flooding caused by storm surge does not affect the campus. However, localized flash flooding could occur in the low-lying areas on campus that are prone to flood during heavy rains. University staff are aware of these areas and have procedures in place to mitigate the issue. However, there are some areas staff may cordon off and allow the water to go down gradually. Always avoid walking and driving in or through flood waters.

What about the College Lake dam?

The City of Lynchburg is closely monitoring the College Lake dam. Our campus is uphill and upstream from the dam and is not at risk of flooding from that area.

I park in the Nest parking lot. Is this lot prone to flooding?

The Nest parking lot is located in an area that is above the 100-year floodplain — in other words, there is only a 1 percent chance of a flood occurring there in any given year. The site has not been known to flood in the past, and it did not flood in a major rainstorm in August 2018. If forecasts indicate a risk of the site flooding, the University has a contingency plan in place and will allow students to move vehicles to higher ground well before the risk is imminent.

Will I lose internet during the storm?

Our network servers have emergency generator power so they will remain operational even if there is a power outage. However, network equipment such as WiFi routers may go down. There is also the possibility that our internet service provider will suffer an issue and we will lose internet connectivity then.

Will I be able to use my cell phone during the storm?

Cell towers often get overloaded during storms. We recommend sending a text during a storm. Often, a text will go through when a call won't.

Is the University of Lynchburg located within a hurricane evacuation zone?

No. According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, FEMA, and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, Lynchburg is not located in a hurricane evacuation zone. There are a few parts of the city where residents have been asked to evacuate, but this is because of flood risks that are unique to those neighborhoods, not our campus.

Am I safe staying on campus?

University staff is well prepared to deal with severe weather and has been preparing for Hurricane Florence while closely monitoring its track. We are confident that the campus is a safe place for students during the storm.

What happens if I lose power in my residence hall or University house?

Please be sure to keep your phones well charged and flashlights handy if the power does go out. If your building does lose power, facilities and power company crews will begin working to restore power.

When a power outage occurs on campus, designated University officials remain in close contact with the power company until power is restored. If a prolonged outage is anticipated, an announcement will be made. If power is lost in a residence hall or apartment building, RAs notify the proper campus officials; other residents do not need to report the outage. If power is lost in a University house, one representative of the house should notify Campus Safety and Security of the power outage.

Drysdale Student Center has a generator that supplies some power in emergency outages. In the event of extended power outages across campus, students will be able to access this emergency power to charge cell phones and computers.

AEP Power Outage Website

<http://outagemap.appalachianpower.com.s3.amazonaws.com/external/default.html>

If power is out on campus. How will I eat?

The Burton Dining Hall is connected to an emergency generator and is fully functional during power outages. During inclement weather, Dining Services is prepared to serve meals in the Burton Dining Room during normal hours of operations.

Dining Hall

Monday through Friday 7:15 PM to 7:00 PM

Saturday 10:30 AM – 6:30 PM

Sunday 10:30 AM – 7:00 PM

Other campus dining locations will be open if possible, but hours may be amended from the typical schedule.

What do I do if I have a disability or other need for extra assistance?

You should contact Campus Safety and Security, 434-544-5555, or use the LiveSafe app and inform them of your specific needs during a severe weather event so they may assist with your safety.

In case of a severe weather event requiring evacuation, it is suggested you contact Campus Safety and Security through LiveSafe so they are aware of your location and can provide assistance as needed. Once you initiate contact through LiveSafe, Campus Safety and Security is able to message you necessary information.

Download LiveSafe in the app store for [iOS](#) or [Android](#).

What if I am anxious about the storm?

Anxiety is a common emotion when severe weather events are expected. A significant number of students have families, friends or homes that may be affected by the storm. Resources are available through the Health and Counseling Center and the Spiritual Life Center. After hours, or in an emergency, please contact Campus Safety and Security to access our on-call resources.

Parents Weekend has been canceled. What is there to do on campus?

In spite of the weather, there are many on campus options to keep you busy.

Drysdale Student Center

The Drysdale Student Center will operate normal hours. Drysdale Student Center is equipped with emergency generators, so staff are prepared to extend operating hours to provide students with activities and space to socialize, charge phones, etc. Please be aware that your University of Lynchburg ID card will allow you to access the building, as well as the game and fitness room, regardless of whether staffing is available.

Hub Desk:

Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Saturday - Sunday 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Game and Fitness Room:

Monday - Friday 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Saturday - Sunday 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Knight-Capron Library

Will be open during normal operating hours

Friday: 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Saturday: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Sunday: 1 p.m. - 2 a.m.

Housing and Residence Life

If classes are cancelled and/or our residential facilities experience a power outage for a significant period of time, the Housing and Residence Life staff are prepared to implement programs throughout our residential facilities. For information on those programs, please contact your resident assistant.

Turner Gymnasium Fitness Center

The fitness center is open during normal operating hours

Monday-Thursday: 7:30 AM - 11 PM
Friday: 7 AM - 8 PM
Saturday: 10 AM - 8 PM
Sunday: 11 AM - 11 PM

Students will ALWAYS need their student ID to enter the building from the glass door directly outside the fitness center and to **scan in prior to using the facility**. Students should NOT access the fitness center through the elevator during the time that the fitness center is closed.

Access will be denied to anyone who does not present a current Lynchburg ID Card.

How will I receive updates during a storm?

The University will share updates in the following ways:

- Lynchburg.edu email
- The home page at www.lynchburg.edu
- LiveSafe app notifications and text messages
- The outdoor Campus Emergency Alert System (CEAS)
- The campus weather line at 434-544-SNOW (7669)
- Passing information through resident assistants

It is important to rely on accurate information as you make decisions related to safety. Social media and some websites tend to sensationalize news, using information that is old or out of context.

The University relies on information provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA; www.noaa.gov) and other science-based sources in making decisions pertaining to weather and student safety. These and local traditional media sources are recommended as you seek information about weather forecasts.

General safety tips in the event of a severe weather event:

- Before the storm, be sure to charge all of your electronic devices fully (cell phone, laptops, etc.) in case electricity is lost, and have extra batteries on hand, if possible. Additionally, if you have a vehicle, you should fill your gas tank before a storm. If electricity is out, most gas pumps won't work.
- Check your medications and be prepared. You should have a seven-day supply of essential medications on hand. It is safe to store many refrigerated medications at room temperature for variable periods of time. Check the drug literature or with your pharmacist if you have questions about drug stability.
- Stay inside during the storm.
- Stay away from dangers, such as glass windows and unsecured furniture or objects.
- Do not attempt to open windows or doors to see what is happening outside.
- If you notice leaks in your on-campus residence or any other storm-related issues regarding the condition campus facilities, notify Campus Safety and Security immediately.
- If you see a downed power line, stay away from it. Assume that all downed power lines are live and extremely dangerous. Don't touch any person or object that is in contact with a power line; the current could flow through you. Immediately call Campus Safety and Security.
- Report all broken windows, excessive water, and other facilities/housekeeping concerns immediately to Campus Safety and Security.
- Because conditions during a hazardous weather event are unpredictable and may require immediate decision making and action, it is important to be alert and clear thinking. Do not use alcohol and other intoxicants that impair judgment and reaction time.