Hurricane Irma Update

September 21, 2017
Post-Tropical Cyclone Irma

Advisory 54

Initial Location (34.2 N 87 W)

Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at 11 AM EDT
- Max Sustained Wind 10 mph
- Movement NNW at 26 mph
Hurricane Irma UF Timeline

Tuesday, September 5

• The State of Florida is in the five-day forecast projection for Hurricane Irma

• UF begins to formally monitor the storm

• The first briefing is sent to UF’s Emergency Operations Team (EOT) and Emergency Policy Group

Thursday, September 7

• EOT and Emergency Policy Group begin holding daily briefings

• Thursday A.M.—announcement that UF will be closed on Sunday and Monday

• Thursday P.M.—announcement (per Gov. Rick Scott) that UF and all state schools will be closed Friday through Monday
Hurricane Irma UF Timeline

Saturday, September 9

• UF announces decision to extend closure through Tuesday

Sunday, September 10

• UF opens two shelters at 10 a.m. – Steinbrenner Band Hall and the Southwest Recreation Center

• Tropical storm force winds begin in Gainesville around 10 p.m.

• UF announces classes cancelled on Wednesday, but employees resume normal operations
Hurricane Irma UF Timeline

Monday, September 11

- Peak winds occurred between 1 and 2 a.m.; sustained winds of 58 mph and gusts up to 61 mph
- Strong gusts ended by 2 p.m.
- Both shelters closed at 4 p.m.
- President convened meeting of the Emergency Policy Group, Cabinet and Deans
- By early Monday morning, Facilities Services workers were on campus assessing damages and clearing debris
Emergency Operations Team

- UFPD
- Emergency Management
- University Relations
- Student Affairs
- Housing
- Human Resources
- UF Health Affairs
- Student Health Care Center
- Counseling and Wellness Center
- CIO Office
- Facilities Services
- Planning, Design and Construction
- University Athletic Association
- Business Affairs
- Controller
- Business Services

Emergency Policy Group

- Office of the President
- SVP – COO
- SVP – IFAS
- SVP – Health Affairs
- SVP – Provost
- VP – Business Affairs
- VP – General Counsel
- VP – Human Resources
- VP – IT
- VP – Student Affairs
- VP – University Relations
- AD – UF Athletic Association
- Chair – Faculty Senate
University EOC

• University Emergency Operations Center (EOC) serves to centrally coordinate University resources and information during an emergency

• Located in UFPD’s Centrex Building on Newell Drive

• Staffed by the Emergency Operations Team

• Maintains coordination with the State, County, City and Shands Hospital EOC’s

• Operational throughout duration of storm and sheltering operations
Tropical Weather Coordination

- UF follows official advisories and forecasts issued by the National Hurricane Center and National Weather Service-Jacksonville

- Tropical cyclone forecasts issued by NHC every six hours for active storm – 5am, 11am, 5pm and 11pm EDT

- Local weather watches and warnings covering UF Campus are issued by NWS-Jacksonville, including Tropical Storm and Hurricane Watches and Warnings

- Multiple, daily conference calls with NHC and NWS-Jacksonville for updated briefings on expected conditions and timing
Campus Infrastructure

- Mitigation
- Power
- Data
- Housing
- Food Service
- Road Closures
- RTS
UF Shelters

• UF has invested over the last decade in building “Enhanced Hurricane Protection Areas (EHPAs)” or public hurricane shelter space as defined by the Florida Building Code.

• Four buildings have state-approved hurricane shelter space – Steinbrenner Band Hall (EHPA), Straughn Conference Center (EHPA), Reitz Union Basement (EHPA), Reitz Grand Ballroom (retrofit), and Southwest Recreation Center (retrofit).

• Shelters are designed for UF students, faculty, staff and families.

• Staffed by volunteer shelter managers, UFPD, SHCC, Gator Emergency Medical Response Unit (Student EMS) and CWC.

• UF housed nearly 800 shelter guests at Steinbrenner and Southwest Recreation Center.
Off-Campus Locations

• IFAS – majority of main structures statewide only experienced minor issues through flooding, power outages and downed trees. Damages to greenhouses and shade houses did occur.

• St. Augustine and Whitney Marine Laboratory – flood damages much less severe than during Hurricane Matthew in 2016.

• Lake Nona RAC – minor roof cladding damage.