

HURRICANE/TROPICAL STORMS

Hurricane season is from June 1 through November 30. Although the Hinds CC District is far from the coast region, inland effects of tropical storms and hurricanes may still effect the Hinds Community College District.

Hurricane Operating Condition Levels

Hinds CC has established a system of Operating Condition (OPCON) levels to make maximum use of advance hurricane warnings. These OPCONs increase HCC's level of readiness on a scale from 5 to 1 and are activated when required criteria have been met.

Depending storm conditions and timing, OPCONs may not progress sequentially from 5 to 1.

- A. OPCON 5: Normal day-to-day operations continue.
- B. OPCON 4: Storm poses a possible threat to MS.
- C. OPCON 3: Storm poses a significant threat to MS.
- D. OPCON 2: Voluntary or mandatory evacuation order is imminent.
- E. OPCON 1: Voluntary or mandatory evacuation order is announced to the public.

Hurricane Watches and Warnings

- A. Hurricane Watch: A hurricane is possible within 36 hours.
- B. Hurricane Warning: A hurricane is expected within 24 hours.

Annual Planning and Preparation

All hurricane action plans and the contact numbers for the Emergency Phone Tree will be updated and reviewed by department heads and directors by April 15 and July 1 of each year. All hurricane supplies and equipment shall be in place and, if appropriate, tested by

May 15. Hurricane action plans shall address the following:

- A. Initial preparations
- B. Protection of property/records
- C. Protection of facilities
- D. Emergency class/activity scheduling
- E. Required supplies and equipment
- F. Preparation time requirements
- G. Preparation for emergency services
- H. Recovery plan
- I. Community assistance impact
- J. Personal assignments

By June 1 of each year, the District Emergency Management Coordinator may call a meeting of the DEOT to review the preparation requirements and implement the plan for upcoming hurricane season.

Storm Monitoring and Final Preparations

- A. At the OPCON Level 4, the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) will monitor National Weather Service (NWS) and information and notify the President of changes in alert/threat status as dictated by storm movements.
- B. The President may convene the DEOT to outline preparations and develop a schedule on suspending classes and other College functions. The OEM will communicate any such decisions to College personnel. The Public Information Officer will communicate to the media.
- C. At the hurricane watch level, all preparations should be finalized.
- D. At the hurricane warning level, all preparations should be complete. Non-emergency personnel should be released, and only emergency personnel should be on Campus.

During the Hurricane/Tropical Storm

Personnel assigned to work should remain inside and avoid windows and flying debris. They should be prepared for loss of electricity, telephones, and possibly radio communications. Public Safety officers will continue patrol and response operations during the storm as long as their safety is not in jeopardy.

Recovery Period

Once hurricane-force winds subside, the recovery period begins, and the following actions will be taken.

- A. Public Safety officers will resume campus patrols to survey damage and prevent looting.
- B. A primary and secondary recovery center designated prior to the storm will serve as the central gathering point for recovery personnel. Recovery assignments, as well as supplies and equipment, will be staged at this area to facilitate recovery services. (Personnel are assigned to recovery operations as indicated in their department's plan.)
- C. The President will convene the DEOT and implement the recovery action plans. The group will address the impact of the storm on the College, develop strategies to meet the needs of the College recovery, and insure that all resources are being focused on restoring normal operations as soon as possible.
- D. Periodic briefings will be held as necessary and communicated to College personnel and the media as appropriate. Decisions will be made regarding outside assistance needed to complete the recovery process.
- E. Designated areas will be set aside for first aid, food, and other essential services.
- F. Maintenance, Grounds, and Public Safety teams will be deployed to assess damage and report estimates to the president.
- G. In the event that College facilities are used for community support functions such as staging areas for supplies, equipment and personnel, special security and service arrangements outlined in the initial plan will be provided. All personnel will be assigned an identification badge and will be required to check in and out for accountability.

- H. Special issues involved in recovery operations must be addressed. For example, fuel, spare tires, and supplies for vehicles must be arranged in advance. Personal safety is of foremost concern.
- I. The Director of Maintenance will develop a contingency plan to coordinate contracts for facility repairs and debris removal.