

CHANCELLOR'S Notes



August 29, 2008

Preparation is key

As we enter the peak of the hurricane season and monitor a storm in the gulf that represents a potential threat, I would like to remind you of our Emergency Preparedness Plan. As you are aware, our first priority is to ensure the safety of our students, faculty, and staff while simultaneously making every effort to protect the LSU Health Sciences Center's academic, clinical and research enterprises. Although living with the threat of a hurricane is part of life in coastal Louisiana, we can mitigate the impact of severe weather by preparing in advance. We have therefore prepared the LSUHSC-NO Hurricane Preparedness Plan governing the campus-wide response to weather-related emergencies.

I ask each of you to become familiar with the Hurricane Preparedness Plan and to finalize your individual preparations for the season. The full plan is available online <http://www.lsuhsoc.edu/no/administration/cm/cm-51.aspx>.

I encourage you to sign up for the LSUHSC-NO text messaging alert system, if you have not done so already. The link for signing up is <http://www.lsuhsoc.edu/alerts/>. Select the 'Sign Up' option on the left side of the page and follow instructions.

The state also offers important information at <http://www.loep.state.la.us/hurricanerelated/hurricaneindex.htm>.

Summary of Hurricane Preparedness Plan

Upon determining that a weather emergency threatens the campus, the Executive Emergency Preparedness Team and I will initiate the following actions:

Immediately upon declaring a weather emergency, we will activate the LSUHSC-NO emergency website. This site is accessible via the LSUHSC-NO home page under Emergency Notices / Information and will provide important updates, guidance and will also contain a link to the LSUHSC-NO emergency registry. We ask all faculty, students, and staff to log onto the registry to update your contact information, such as cell phone numbers and their evacuation address. (Please note that this information will remain confidential and will be available only to Vice-Chancellors, Deans, Department Heads, and Center Directors or their designees and representatives.)

In the event that it is necessary to order closure of the LSU Health Sciences Center, we will instruct the Vice-Chancellors, Deans, and Directors of all academic and administrative units within the Health Sciences Center to begin notification of faculty, students, and staff to begin evacuation procedures. ONLY essential employees with appropriate identification will have access to our campus to prepare for closure of our buildings.

Students living in the residence halls (St. Stanislaus and the Residence Hall at 1900 Perdido Street) will be asked to return to their dorm rooms. In cases where a voluntary or a mandatory evacuation is ordered by an authorized state, city, or university official, LSUHSC-NO will NOT serve as a shelter of last resort. All students living in the residence halls must then evacuate the Health Sciences Center. It is the responsibility of each student to make arrangements for transportation and shelter outside of the city in the event of closure of the LSU Health Sciences Center.

As many of you will remember, perishable items left in refrigerators can become a considerable problem. Therefore, we ask all personnel to dispose of ALL perishable items in the refrigerators before closure.

Upon notification by the Chancellor, the Office of Information Services and the University Police/Security will post notices of re-openings through LSUHSC-NO (LSUHSC-NO Emergency website, LSUHSC-NO emergency information line, phone trees), text messaging, and external (radio, television) communication outlets as soon as the information becomes available. At that time, all LSUHSC-NO employees may re-enter LSUHSC-NO buildings by presenting a valid ID.

I wish you all a safe and happy holiday weekend.

