

## Severe Storm Information for Students Living in University of South Carolina Residence Halls

**It is possible that severe storms will affect the Midlands and Columbia area throughout the year. When advance notification is possible, updates will be posted on Gamecock Cable WRHA channel 8. Pertinent information also will be available via local radio and TV stations. If a storm is approaching, please check the news media frequently. The information below will be helpful in the event of a severe storm in our immediate area.**

ALWAYS follow the instructions of University Emergency personnel. These instructions are for the benefit of your safety and for others around you.

Plan to attend classes unless otherwise announced. Class or event cancellations will be posted on VIP (<http://www.vip.sc.edu>).

Do not use phones or cell phones any more than necessary. Too many people on the line (especially on cell phones) can prevent emergency workers and evacuees from receiving important information.

### **24 hours before the storm arrives:**

- ✓ Arrange to have cash on hand. Do not depend on using an ATM later – it may be out of service!
- ✓ Keep a flashlight with extra batteries near your bed. Do not use candles. The desk of your residence hall will have at least one flashlight if your power should go out.
- ✓ Make sure your car has an adequate supply of gas. If it is exposed to the weather, move your car to a protected location. You will be able to park in the garages without fear of tickets or towing until after the storm has passed.

### **During the storm:**

- ✓ Do not use elevators during the storm.
- ✓ Move your valuables away from windows and cover them with a sheet or blanket. If your window should break, you can put your mattress up against the window, and immediately notify your staff member. Make sure you wear shoes if you leave your room.
- ✓ Keep keys, identification, several doses of prescription medication, and other personal necessities with you at all times.
- ✓ If you have blinds or curtains in your room, close them and keep them closed. During the storm do not peek out of the window. Do not open the window.
- ✓ Move valuables (computer, stereo, etc.) to a chair or table to keep them off the floor in case there is excessive water.
- ✓ Do not try to drive or cross campus. Do not go outdoors during the storm. Remain in a safe location until the danger has passed. If the storm becomes severe put on your shoes and take your pillow into the hallway or stairwells. Go to the lowest level area possible. If you cannot get into either of the above locations, go to an interior doorframe. Sit down, place your head between your knees, and put the pillow over your head.
- ✓ If you have an emergency or need assistance or information, call a staff member. He/she can assist you in many ways.