CNS /Update Newsletter Feature

Hurricanes Get Respect at NERDC

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Hurricanes Get Respect at NERDC

If there is a threat of a hurricane at the University of Florida, how will you know if NERDC is about to shut down?

If you weren't around in 1985 when Hurricane Elena blew in 40 miles off the coast of nearby Cedar Key, or more recently, when Hurricane Andrew ripped a path across South Florida, you may not realize that although UF is not on the coast, hurricanes can still be a threat.

Since hurricane season -- June 1 through November 30 -- has begun, we'd like you to know what NERDC will do in the event of a hurricane, and how our actions may affect you.

If there is a hurricane watch or warning, NERDC has a detailed plan to protect the mainframe system and to inform NERDC users of the severity of the condition.

NERDC's Hurricane Emergency Plan is a manual with instructions for NERDC's emergency teams. It outlines steps we will take to protect our people, data, and physical facilities, in the event of an emergency. Procedures include securing the roof, securing loose equipment, tracking the hurricane, making emergency supplies and equipment readily available (such as moving wet vacuums into the machine room), boarding windows, etc.

Keeping You Informed

Part of our Hurricane Emergency Plan is providing our customers with continuous information about the hurricane's status, as well as NERDC's anticipated down-time. We will notify some agencies by phone, and other customers by as many avenues as possible. Here are the channels through which we will keep you posted:

NERDC News

NERDC News articles, short bulletins which announce changes or updates at NERDC, are sent directly to your electronic mail box. NERDC News is our channel for keeping you informed throughout the year, and it is especially helpful in the event of an emergency or disaster -- a good reason for you to subscribe if you haven't already.

NERDC Hotnews:

Hotnews messages are used to distribute announcements of immediate importance to a large number of users. These messages are printed automatically on the header page of all batch jobs.

Other Resources

In addition to NERDC's alerts, the Alachua County Office of Emergency Management (ACOEM) maintains a Web page:

http://www.alachua-em.org

ACOEM also sponsors a LISTSERV list at NERDC to keep the computing community appraised of matters of interest. Anyone may subscribe to EMER-L@LISTS.UFL.EDU
If NERDC Shuts Down

In order to protect our equipment, we must, when the situation warrants it, shut down all equipment, including the mainframe. Of course, once we do this, we will not be able to provide you with information through NERDC News. So, we encourage you to call our telephone hotline for current information and our anticipated down-time.

Fortunately, during the past year, NERDC was able to acquire a large, high-capacity (1,000 KW, 1,250 KVA) diesel-powered electric generator, which is capable of keeping us on-line for extended periods in the event of a prolonged utility power outage. Its 1,000-gallon fuel tank can keep the generator running for a full day without refueling. Like any form of insurance, we don't look forward to having to rely on it, but it's comforting to know it's there!

TERMS

Hurricane:
Closed isobars, strong and very pronounced rotary circulation, wind speed of 74 miles per hour (64 knots) or more.

Hurricane Watch:
An announcement for specific areas that a hurricane or an incipient hurricane condition poses a possible threat within 36 hours.

Hurricane Warning:
Means that sustained winds of 74 m.p.h. or higher associated with a hurricane are expected in 24 hours of less.

Your Comments are Welcome

We welcome your comments and suggestions on this and all UFIT documentation. Please send your comments to:

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