September 11, 2008

Dear UTSA Housing Residents:

We are watching the developments of Hurricane Ike in the Gulf of Mexico and monitoring the path it is traveling. Therefore, we would like to provide you with some basic information to prepare you for the possible severe weather we may experience. This information was adapted from the Red Cross Web site. We are asking you to please notify your family, roommates and your Resident Assistant about your storm/travel plans.

Please note UTSA is not an evacuation site. Therefore, all housing policies still apply, so please review the Guest and Visitors policy on page 22 of the Resident Handbook and discuss it with your roommate(s) if you wish to have guests or visitors stay with you. Please instruct all visitors to park in lot 12 near the practice fields. Also, please review the “Pets” policy on page 23. Finally, remember that all minors who come to visit must be accompanied by a parent.

No animals will be allowed to stay in housing unless the animal is a certified service animal. Port San Antonio, the old Kelly Air Force Base, is providing shelter for pets. Animals must be registered at the reception center and instructions will be provided there.

Many activities and meetings have been cancelled for the weekend at UTSA. Please check the UTSA Web site for updates. The weekend shopping shuttle has been cancelled.

Information sites and phone number:

- UTSA Weather Line 458-SNOW (7669)
- www.utsa.edu
- NOAA Weather Radio or local radio or TV stations

Assemble a “Disaster Supplies Kit” including the following items:

- First aid kit and essential medications.
- Canned food and manual can opener.
- At least three gallons of drinking water per person.
- Protective clothing, rainwear, and bedding or sleeping bags.
- Battery-powered radio, flashlight, and extra batteries.
- Special items for infants, elderly, or disabled family members.
- Use flashlights in the dark. NO CANDLES!!!
Prepare for High Winds:

- Close all blinds and stay away from windows.
- Remove all personal items and any objects from the landings and stairwells and store items inside your unit.
- Be aware that the calm “eye” is deceptive; the storm is not over. The worst part of the storm will happen once the eye passes over and the winds blow from the opposite direction. Trees, shrubs, buildings, and other objects damaged by the first winds can be broken or destroyed by the second winds.
- Be alert for tornadoes as they can occur very quickly with limited warning. Tornadoes can happen during a hurricane and after it passes over. UTSA will activate its Giant Voice emergency annunciation system with evacuation instructions if sufficient warning is received and will have UTSA Police personnel to assist with the evacuation to another building. Otherwise, remain indoors, in the center of unit, in a closet or bathroom without windows.
- Be prepared by picking a place ahead of time where you and your roommates can gather if a tornado is headed your way. It could be a center hallway, bathroom, or closet on the lowest floor. Keep this place uncluttered.
- Stay away from flood waters. If you come upon a flooded road, turn around and go another way. If you are caught on a flooded road and waters are rising rapidly around you, get out of the car and climb to higher ground.
- Use flashlights in the dark. NO CANDLES!!!
- Keep your refrigerator closed during the power outage as the food will stay cold for 12 to 24 hours if the door is not opened.

Stay Tuned for Storm Watches or Storm Warnings:

- Listen to your local radio and TV stations for updated storm information.
- Know what a tornado WATCH and WARNING means:
  - A tornado WATCH means a tornado is possible in your area.
  - A tornado WARNING means a tornado has been sighted and may be headed for your area. Go to safety immediately.
- Tornado WATCHES and WARNINGS are issued by county or parish.
- Be alert to changing weather conditions. Blowing debris or the sound of an approaching tornado may alert you. Many people say it sounds like a freight train.
- In the event of a Tornado Warning, the UTSA Emergency System will go into effect. You will hear 3 loud beeps followed by instructions. If and when you hear this you should move to a room in your unit that does not have windows and you should pull the mattress from the bed over your body and head. Stay in this position until the danger passes.

After the Tornado Passes:

- Watch out for fallen power lines and stay out of the damaged area.
- Use a flashlight to inspect your unit for damage.
- Do not use candles at any time!!!
- Call friends or family members to let them know you are OK.