

Natural and Man-made Disasters (Hurricanes, etc.)

Students play a critical role in the treatment of patients in emergency situations. In the event of a natural disaster (e.g. hurricane) and the hospital is placed in the emergency mode- Level 2 (see emergency response plan) , all phase II students assigned to rotations at the teaching hospital and all staff are considered “essential personnel” and will be expected to report as soon as it is safe to travel. The clinic schedule and student responsibilities may change during such events. Students may be required to participate in VTH emergency response efforts depending upon need and safety.

Students on the following services will be expected to report to their respective sections and continue to provide patient care: small animal medicine, small animal surgery, equine medicine, equine surgery, farm animal, equine ambulatory, theriogenology, laboratory animal medicine, cardiology, ophthalmology, anesthesiology, diagnostic imaging, diagnostic imaging elective, small animal emergency medicine, large animal emergency medicine and zoological medicine. The students should realize that until conditions return to normal they will be expected to work shifts that include the evening or overnight hours. In addition, they may be reassigned to work in areas of the hospital other than their assigned rotations

Students in the following services which either do not have direct patient care or typically do not have inpatients should contact the course coordinator or faculty block mentor for further instructions. These services are: dermatology, clinical pathology, oncology, pathology, integrative medicine and rehabilitation, community practice, shelter medicine, animal control, spay/neuter and microbiology/parasitology. The course coordinator or faculty member will be coordinating with the Emergency Response Personnel. If advised to do so, these students should report to the small or large animal treatment room if safe to travel, on the morning that the hospital is placed in emergency mode- Level 2, where they will be assigned to specific emergency shifts. These students will be expected to assist with the triage, admission, and treatment of presenting emergencies as well as for caring for in-hospital patients. The students should realize that until conditions return to normal they will be expected to work shifts that include the evening hours.

If asked to report for duty during an emergency, personal safety is the number one priority. Common sense should be used in the commute and the course coordinator (or faculty block mentor) and the Small Animal ICU (225-578-9503) or Large Animal ICU (225- 578-9520) should be alerted if you are unable to arrive safely.

Hurricane Season officially runs from June 1st - Nov. 30th. The projected path of tropical storms/hurricanes are mapped by the National Hurricane Center: <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/?atlc>. Please stay aware of impending storm systems. **Please check in with the course coordinator (or faculty block mentor) daily beginning 72 hours prior to any storm landfall projected for Louisiana.** Preparedness begins at home. Please view the section on hurricane preparedness on moodle and make sure you and your household is prepared (also visit: <http://www.getgameplan.org/>).