The Tropical Cyclone Season for the South Pacific Region is from November to April annually.

During this period it is common to experience wind rain storms ranging from mild tropical depressions to moderate intensity tropical storms to highly destructive tropical cyclones with wind speeds and gusts up to several hundred kilometres per hour covering an area several hundred miles in diameter.

Cyclones often last several days to a week at any one time so early Preparedness is essential. Weather reports will provide more information on this, so listen to it.

Cyclones are characterised by highly destructive force winds with heavy rain downpours that can destroy homes and buildings, create flash floods inland and storm surges at sea, and disrupt electrical power, water supplies, and all forms of transportation and communication infrastructures and networks for several weeks to months at a time.

Human Injuries and death in cyclones are due to being hit by flying or falling objects, slips trips and falls, drowning, electrocution, motor vehicle accidents, capsizing of boats, shipwrecks and structural collapse of buildings or bridges, landslides as well as not being able to access timely emergency medical treatment.

If a Cyclone is in Progress in your area and you are in Doubt as to whether you attend classes or work, Remain at Your Residence/Home. You may call your local USP administration office or USP DISMAC Laucala campus on Phone Number +679 3231488 or 9907770 for further clarification.

Tropical Depression, Storms and Cyclones

Cyclone Evan December 2012.

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Tropical Cyclone Intensity: A Measure of Destruction

The Australian Bureau of Meteorology gives a excellent description of the Tropical Cyclone Category System within Oceania at the link below:

There are 5 categories in terms of measuring and describing the intensity levels of cyclones. These 5 categories corresponds with the Beaufort scale. A category 5 cyclone is the strongest.

Cyclone Evan that recently affected Samoa and Fiji in December 2012 was a Category 4 cyclone.

The destructive effects of Cyclone Evan was felt markedly in both the Alafua and Laucala USP Campuses.
Cyclones cause destructive winds that can smash and cause damage to windows, doors, roofs, and structures.

Glass Windows and Doors must be protected by boards and shutters.

These must be placed well before a cyclone is at its most destructive and ideally during daylight hours.

It is common to hear hammering of shutters and boards in communities as they prepare for cyclones.

Always inform your USP Campus Property and Facility Personnel to begin boarding and placing shutters over vulnerable windows and doors of your building ahead of a cyclone occurring.

Tall Trees adjacent to buildings, Roads and Power Lines must be pruned or if dangerous it must be removed totally. Falling trees and tree branches cause large scale damage and even loss of life to those living close to it. This must be done early before a cyclone is at its most destructive. Inform USP Property and Facilities Dept. to prune trees early in the cyclone season.

Generators are maintained and has ample fuel to last for several days at a time, and located in an area safe from flooding and wind damage.

If you see any fallen power lines in your neighborhood always report this to Power company or USP Property and Facility electricians in your campus to attend to.

Electrocution is a common cause of death during and after cyclones from electrical power disruptions.

Electrical Power is always disrupted because Power Lines and Poles are always affected by high winds leading to damage and falling.

Having an alternative electrical generator is the best way to maintain power supply to important structures. Always ensure that these

In areas that are low lying with high risk of flooding, it is best to move to designated evacuation centers on higher ground. This is best done early and during day light hours.

Cyclones generate large volumes of rain that can cause rapid flooding of drains and bursting of river banks, creeks and storm surges in coastal sea areas.

It is important to ensure that nearby drains and waterways are clear of debri and sufficiently clear and deep to withstand blockage and flooding.

Men Clearing Drains

Putting Up Cyclone Window Shutters

Broken Power Lines
Conserving Water for Later use.

Cyclones are great opportunities to catch and conserve large amounts of rain water for drinking, cleaning and sanitation needs.

Cyclones create power line and water pipe damage, so electrical power cuts and water cuts are always expected during or immediately following a cyclone.

This can last up to several days to weeks at a time.

It is advisable to store tap water or catch rain water using all available buckets, containers and pots and storing them in containers or bottles during heavy rainfall.

Having a filtered Water Tank attached to your building and roof drainage pipes is a great way of doing this without any need to be outside in the rain.

Ensure that you check your roof and drain pipes is always clean and clear of debris. Having a 1000 liter tank would be adequate for a small family to use for several days.

Food and Supplies

Food is an essential item that must be stored in quantity in preparation of a cyclone.

Dry and Canned Foods are best as they don't require refrigeration and are easily prepared for meals.

Use refrigerated food first if you have them already.

Minimize purchasing perishable and refrigerated foods during cyclone season.

Fuel is another essential item for food preparation, so ensure that you have enough fuel (cooking gas, firewood) to last several weeks at a time.

Light sources is essential, so keep candles, lanterns or rechargeable lights in surplus to use for several days.

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Movement and Information

Restrict all unnecessary movement outdoors when the cyclone is at its most destructive, and also 24 hours after its has left.

Most fatalities occur when people and their vehicles become trapped and injured by flying debris and flooding and by other hazards like falling, sharp objects and electrocution.

In some situations a curfew is declared to minimize unnecessary movement.

It is important to always maintain and keep updated on information regarding the cyclone and other information. Transistor radios and mobile phones provide portable radio access 24 hours.

Always ensure that batteries are kept charged and that you have additional spare batteries.

Fiji Radio Stations

English
RadioFijiGold FM Channel 100.4
2DayFM Channel 104.0

Fijian
BulaFM FM Channel 102.0
Radio Fiji 1 FM Channel 107.4

Hindi
RadioFiji2 FM Channel 105.2
**SOUTH PACIFIC CYCLONE BELT**

The Band of Pacific Ocean south of the equator and West of the international dateline towards the east coast of Australia is termed the Pacific Cyclone Belt, as it has seen the most number of cyclone developing in this area in this region from November to April.

The majority of Melanesian and Polynesian Pacific Island countries served by the University of the South Pacific is located here. Micronesian Countries are relatively spared.

**CYCLONE WATCH**

- A Cyclone Watch is declared 48 hours before Cyclone makes landfall.
- This is the ideal time to begin Emergency Preparedness Activities by Securing Food, Provisions and Water, Protecting Residential windows with shutters, Pruning trees and Clearing drains and water ways.
- The Fiji Meteorology Department based at Nadi which is responsible for Cyclone Monitoring in the South Pacific Region will usually provide 6 hourly updates to countries likely to be affected.

**CYCLONE WARNING**

A Cyclone warning is issued when a cyclone is expected to make landfall within 24 hours, a lot of other information relating to cyclone strength, speed and destructive capability will be broadcast from here on.

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**EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS LAUCALA CAMPUS**

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<th>Extension</th>
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<td>3313400 / 3319250</td>
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<td>Fiji Police</td>
<td>911 or 3383222</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Fire Authority</td>
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