



HURRICANE

Hurricanes are a type of tropical cyclone with the potential for catastrophic damage to coastal areas and significant impacts hundreds of miles inland. These powerful storms generate violent thunderstorms, sustained winds exceeding 155 mph, and can spawn tornadoes. Hurricane season in the United States runs from May until November each year.

Beyond the immediate storm, secondary hazards such as power outages and widespread flooding pose a threat, even to those outside the hurricane's direct path. Hurricanes inflict extensive damage through a combination of destructive winds and high floodwaters resulting from heavy rainfall and storm surge.



Storm System Definitions:

- **Tropical Depression:** Organized system of thunderstorms with winds up to 38 mph.
- **Tropical Storm:** Intensified system with winds 39-73 mph; assigned a name.
- **Hurricane/Typhoon:** Intense system with winds 74 mph or higher. (Terminology varies by region.)
- **Storm Surge:** Abnormal rise in sea level driven by a storm's winds; can be extremely dangerous (up to 25ft high, spanning hundreds of miles).

Watches & Warnings:

- **Watch:** Hurricane/tropical storm *possible* within 36 hours – prepare and stay informed.
- **Short-Term Warnings:** Specific, localized threats (flash floods, tornadoes) during a hurricane.

Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale (Categorization):

- **Category 1 (74-95 mph):** Minimal damage – some damage to plants/signs. Storm surge 4-5 ft.
- **Category 2 (96-110 mph):** Moderate damage – flooding, damage to mobile homes/roofs/small crafts. Storm surge 6-8 ft.
- **Category 3 (111-129 mph):** Extensive damage – significant damage to smaller buildings & low-lying roofs. Storm surge 9-12 ft.
- **Category 4 (130-156 mph):** Extreme damage – widespread roof/mobile home destruction, downed trees, road closures, flooding. Storm surge 13-18 ft.
- **Category 5 (157+ mph):** Catastrophic damage – near-total destruction of buildings/vegetation, widespread infrastructure failure. Storm surge over 18 ft.

Hurricane Preparedness & Response

Pre-Hurricane Preparations:

- **Property Protection:** Install storm shutters or gather boarding supplies.
- **Vehicle Readiness:** Maintain a full fuel tank.
- **Emergency Planning:**
 - Build a comprehensive emergency kit.
 - Develop & practice a family emergency/evacuation plan.
 - Establish a family communication plan for separation.

During a Hurricane:

- **Stay Informed:** Monitor radio/TV for updates & instructions.
- **Home Security:** Close shutters, secure outdoor furniture.
- **Resource Management:** Ensure a water supply; set refrigerator to coldest setting.
- **If Evacuation Ordered:**
 - **Comply immediately.**
 - Follow designated routes & timelines.
 - Take essential items & emergency kit.
 - Disconnect utilities (gas, electricity, water).
 - Avoid walking/driving through floodwaters.
 - Report to your command upon reaching safety.
- **If No Evacuation Order:**
 - Continue monitoring radio/TV.
 - Seek shelter (bathroom/basement) away from windows/doors.
 - Prepare for potential evacuation to a shelter.
 - Do not venture outside until officially cleared.
 - Report to your command upon reaching safety.

Post-Hurricane Actions:

- **Accountability Reporting:** Report status via [ADPAAS](#).
- **Safety Precautions:**
 - Avoid all floodwaters (standing or moving).
 - Beware of downed power lines.
 - Avoid roads with receding floodwater.
 - Exercise extreme caution when entering buildings.
- **Sanitation:** Clean & disinfect all flood-affected items.

Where to Find Additional Information

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): <https://www.ready.gov/hurricanes>
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Hurricane Center: <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/prepare/ready.php>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <http://www.cdc.gov/features/hurricanepreparedness>
- American Red Cross: <http://www.redcross.org/prepare/disaster/hurricane>
- Ready Army: <https://ready.army.mil>

It's up to you. Prepare strong. Get an emergency supply kit with enough supplies for at least three days, make an emergency plan with your family and be informed about what might happen. These fact sheets are intended to supplement predetermined plans and policies. Follow state, local, installation and command guidance related to threats and hazards.

