

Hurricanes 101

Hurricane Season
June 1 - November 30



Tropical Disturbance

Formation of a storm; generally unorganized

Tropical Depression

Begins to organize; winds less than 38 mph

Tropical Storm

Winds are between 39-73 mph; gets named

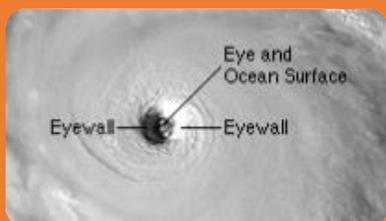
Hurricane

Winds are at 74+ mph; eye of storm typically forms

The Eye

The eye of the storm is the cloud-free center, measuring roughly 12-30 miles wide.

The eye is typically calm and clear, but it's surrounded by a storm wall.



Credit: NOAA



Conditions can be favorable for tornadoes.

Saffir-Simpson Scale (Category)

- 1 Wind:** 74-95 mph
- 2 Wind:** 96-110 mph
- 3 Wind:** 111-129 mph
- 4 Wind:** 130-156 mph
- 5 Wind:** 157 mph or higher

Category 1: Strong winds that can snap tree branches; potential damage to roof shingles and gutters

Category 2: Winds can cause extensive damage; roof and siding damage possible; shallow trees could be uprooted; power loss expected

Category 3: Damage can be devastating; power loss may last from several days to weeks after storm; trees likely to be uprooted

Categories 4 & 5: Catastrophic damage will occur; homes can be damaged or destroyed; power outages will last for weeks, possibly months; mandatory evacuation likely in some areas

Turn Around, Don't Drown

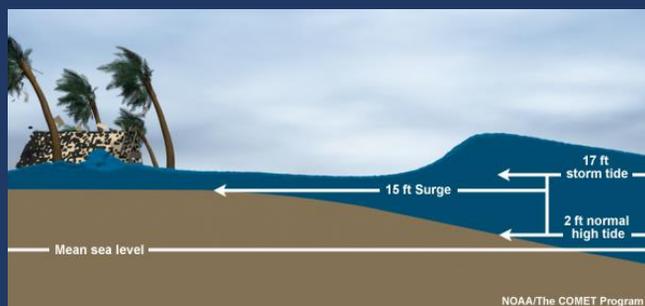
Never drive through standing water.

Just 12 inches of water can sweep a car away.



Storm Surge is the rise of water beyond normal high tide due to a storm.

Storm surge can be more dangerous than the hurricane itself.



Sources:

hurricanescience.org/science/science/hurricanestructure/nhc.noaa.gov/

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