

TERMS ASSOCIATED WITH HURRICANES

Advisory – A message released by the National Hurricane Center, normally at 6-hour intervals, providing updates on the storm or hurricane, including watches and warning when they are in effect. A special advisory is a message given whenever there is a significant change in weather conditions or in previously released warnings. Intermediate advisories are issued every two to three hours, whenever a watch or warning is in effect.

Gale Warning – Storm conditions with non-cyclonic winds of an expected speed of 30 to 54 miles per hour.

Tropical Storm Warning – Storm conditions with non-cyclonic winds expected between 55 and 73 miles per hour.

Hurricane Watch - Means a hurricane MAY threaten an area within 24 - 36 hours. A hurricane watch is a first alert for areas that may be threatened.

Hurricane Warning - A Hurricane Warning is issued when hurricane conditions (winds of 74 miles per hour or greater or dangerously high water and rough seas) are expected in 24 hours or less

Storm Surge – A rise in tides caused by a hurricane as it moves over or near a shoreline.

Tornado Watch – Tornadoes and Severe Thunderstorms are possible.

Tornado Warning – A Tornado has been detected in the warning area – *take shelter immediately.*

SAFFIR-SIMPSON HURRICANE SCALE

Saffir-Simpson Scale							
Saffir-Simpson Category	Maximum sustained wind			Minimum pressure mb	surface	Storm surge	
	mi/h	m/s	kt			ft	m
1	74-95	33-42	64-82	greater than 980	3-5	1.0-1.7	
2	96-110	43-49	83-95	979-965	6-8	1.8-2.6	
3	111-130	50-58	96-113	964-945	9-12	2.7-3.8	
4	131-155	59-69	114-135	944-920	13-18	3.9-5.6	
5	156+	70+	136+	less than 920	19+	5.7+	

Damage		
Category	Winds	Effects
1	74-95 mph	No real damage to building structures. Damage primarily to unanchored mobile homes, shrubbery, and trees. Also, some coastal road flooding and minor pier damage
2	96-110 mph	Some roofing material, door, and window damage to buildings. Considerable damage to vegetation, mobile homes, and piers. Coastal and low-lying escape routes flood 2-4 hours before arrival of center. Small craft in unprotected anchorages break moorings.
3	111-130 mph	Some structural damage to small residences and utility buildings with a minor amount of curtain wall failures. Mobile homes are destroyed. Flooding near the coast destroys smaller structures with larger structures damaged by floating debris. Terrain continuously lower than 5 feet Above Sea Level (ASL) may be flooded inland 8 miles or more.
4	131-155 mph	More extensive curtain wall failures with some complete roof structure failure on small residences. Major erosion of beach. Major damage to lower floors of structures near the shore. Terrain continuously lower than 10 feet ASL may be flooded requiring massive evacuation of residential areas inland as far as 6 miles.
5	greater than 155 mph	Complete roof failure on many residences and industrial buildings. Some complete building failures with small utility buildings blown over or away. Major damage to lower floors of all structures located less than 15 feet ASL and within 500 yards of the shoreline. Massive evacuation of residential areas on low ground within 5 to 10 miles of the shoreline may be required.