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Basic Hurricane Safety Actions

- Know if you live in an evacuation area. Know your home's vulnerability to storm surge, flooding and wind. Have a written plan based on this knowledge.
- At the beginning of hurricane season (June 1), check your supplies, replace batteries and use food stocks on a rotating basis.
- During hurricane season, monitor the tropics. Monitor [NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards](#).
- If a storm threatens, heed the advice from local authorities. **Evacuate if ordered.**
- Execute your family plan.

Watch vs. Warning Know the Difference

A HURRICANE WATCH issued for your part of the coast indicates the possibility that you could experience hurricane conditions within 36 hours. This watch should trigger

Hurricanes

A hurricane is a severe tropical storm that forms in the North Atlantic Ocean, the Northeast Pacific Ocean east of the dateline, or the South Pacific Ocean east of 160E. Hurricanes need warm tropical oceans, moisture and light winds above them. If the right conditions last long enough, a hurricane can produce violent winds, incredible waves, torrential rains and floods. In other regions of the world, these types of storms have different names.

- Typhoon — (the Northwest Pacific Ocean west of the dateline)
- Severe Tropical Cyclone — (the Southwest Pacific Ocean west of 160E or Southeast Indian Ocean east of 90E)
- Severe Cyclonic Storm — (the North Indian Ocean)
- Tropical Cyclone — (the Southwest Indian Ocean)

Hurricanes rotate in a counterclockwise direction around an "eye." A tropical storm becomes a hurricane when winds reach 74 mph. There are on average six Atlantic hurricanes each year; over a three-year period, approximately five hurricanes strike the United States coastline from Texas to Maine. The Atlantic hurricane season begins June 1 and ends November 30. The East Pacific hurricane season runs from May 15 through November 30, with peak activity occurring during July through September.

When hurricanes move onto land, the heavy rain, strong winds and heavy waves can damage buildings, trees and cars. The heavy waves are called a storm surge. Storm surge is very dangerous and a major reason why you **MUST** stay away from the ocean during a hurricane.



Hurricane Katrina satellite image taken Aug. 28, 2005, when the storm was a Category 5 in the Gulf of Mexico.

2005 ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON

Summary of 2005 Season

- [Hurricane Katrina Environmental Impacts](#)
- [Hurricane Katrina — Images, reports, video](#)

Weather Watches, Warnings and Forecasts

- ▶ [NOAA National Hurricane Center](#) — maintains a continuous watch on tropical cyclones over the Atlantic, Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico and the Eastern Pacific from May 15 through November 30.
- ▶ [NOAA Central Pacific Hurricane Center](#) - issues tropical cyclone warnings, watches, advisories, discussions and statements for all tropical cyclones in the Central Pacific from 140 Degrees West Longitude to the International Dateline.
- ▶ [NOAA National Weather Service](#)
- ▶ [NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards](#)
- ▶ [NOAA Satellite Services Division](#) — provides real-time access to satellite data and products for the public and government.
- ▶ [Satellite Images of Severe Storm Sectors](#) — NOAA GOES satellite images pointed over event areas.

[Satellite Images of Hurricane Regions](#)[NOAA High Resolution Satellite](#)

your family's disaster plan, and protective measures should be initiated, especially those actions that require extra time such as securing a boat, leaving a barrier island, etc.

A HURRICANE WARNING issued for your part of the coast indicates that sustained winds of at least 74 mph are expected within 24 hours or less. Once this warning has been issued, your family should be in the process of completing protective actions and deciding the safest location to be during the storm.

Hurricane Photos



Historic Weather Service Album: early satellite imagery, damage photos, graphics and more.



NOAA Hurricane Hunters



NOAA Enhanced Satellite Imagery (NOAA Operational Significant Event Imagery)



Imagery (NOAA Environmental Visualization Lab)



Naval Maritime Forecast Center/Joint Typhoon Warning Center — The U.S. Department of Defense agency responsible for issuing tropical cyclone warnings for the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

Preparedness Guides



Hurricane Preparedness Week — the goal is to inform the public about hurricane hazards and provide knowledge that can be used to take action.



Hurricane and Other Severe Weather Guides from the NOAA National Hurricane Center



Hurricane Awareness from the NOAA National Weather Service



American Red Cross — Hurricane Readiness Guide

More Info...



CoastWatch Products — These are NOAA GOES satellites images of various coastal sectors. You can see infrared (IR) or visual (VIS) versions of these images. Note that the visual images can only be seen during daylight hours.



The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale — a 1 to 5 rating based on the hurricane's present intensity. This is used to give an estimate of the potential property damage and flooding expected along the coast from a hurricane landfall.



Billion Dollar U.S. Weather Disasters



Storm Names



Archived Satellite Images, Storm Animations and Special Events — You will find hundreds of selected satellite images capturing some of the more important weather and environmental events.



Pronunciation of Western North Pacific and South China Sea Cyclones — The Hong Kong Observatory provides the pronunciations of these storms through the use of audio.



Converting UTC or Zulu Time



Daily Color Satellite Images Atlantic Ocean Storms



Hurricane Tracking Models



Hurricanes and Climate Research Information (PDF)

Organizations

- **NOAA National Hurricane Center** — prepares and distributes hurricane watches and warnings for the general public, and also prepares and distributes marine and military advisories for other users. During the "off-season," the Center, in Miami, Fla., provides training for U.S. emergency managers and representatives from many other countries that are affected by tropical cyclones. The center also conducts applied research to evaluate and improve hurricane forecasting techniques, and is involved in public awareness programs.
- **NOAA Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory** — conducts a basic and applied research program in oceanography, tropical meteorology, atmospheric and oceanic chemistry, and acoustics. The program seeks to understand the physical characteristics and processes of the ocean and the atmosphere, both separately and as a coupled system. The lab is home to the [NOAA Hurricane Research Division](#).
- **NOAA Aircraft Operations Center (Home of NOAA Hurricane Hunters)** — The airplanes and helicopters of the Aircraft Operations Center are flown in support of NOAA's mission to promote global environmental assessment, prediction and stewardship of the Earth's

environment. NOAA's aircraft operate throughout the United States and around the world; over open oceans, mountains, coastal wetlands and Arctic pack ice. These versatile aircraft provide scientists with airborne platforms necessary to collect the environmental and geographic data essential to their research.

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