

Hurricane Features

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What is a Hurricane?

A hurricane is an intense, rotating oceanic weather system that possesses maximum sustained winds exceeding 119 km/hr (74 mph). It forms and intensifies over tropical oceanic regions.

Hurricanes are generally smaller than storms in mid-latitudes, typically about 500 km (311 miles) in diameter. At the ocean's surface, the air spirals inward in a counterclockwise direction. This cyclonic circulation becomes weaker with height, eventually turning into clockwise (anticyclonic) outflow near the top of the storm.

Learn about hurricanes from an historical perspective, including the most expensive, the deadliest, and the most intense hurricanes of this century by selecting the Tropical Prediction Center/National Hurricane Center link on the **Weather Links** page of this Website (available from the main menu).



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