

TROPICAL STORM SAFETY



BE PREPARED FOR SUMMER BY KNOWING THESE FACTS AND TIPS

Facts:

- The Atlantic Hurricane Season begins on June 1st and ends on November 30th, with August through September being the peak months. The Pacific Hurricane Season is from May 15th-November 30th.
- An average tropical storm or hurricane is 5-6 miles high and 400+ miles wide, but they can be bigger or smaller.
- A tropical storm or hurricane forms when a cluster of thunderstorms comes together over warm, tropical waters and starts to rotate around an area of low pressure.
- A storm becomes classified as a tropical storm when its sustained winds reach 39 mph and as a hurricane when the sustained winds reach 74 mph.
- Storms that have winds above 74 mph are called "hurricanes" in the Atlantic and East Pacific, "typhoons" in the West Pacific, and "cyclones" in the Indian Ocean and South Pacific.
- Storms are named based on a six-year list that rotates. This list is maintained by the World Meteorological Organization.

Saffir-Simpson Scale:

- Category 1 - sustained wind speeds of 74 to 95 mph
- Category 2 - sustained wind speeds of 96 to 110 mph
- Category 3 - sustained wind speeds of 111 to 129 mph
- Category 4 - sustained wind speeds of 130 to 156 mph
- Category 5 - sustained wind speeds greater than 156 mph

Tips:

- Ensure you have a way to receive warnings, such as a NOAA weather radio, a weather app on your phone, or the radio/television. Sign up for alert notifications that are specific to your town or region.
- Know your local hurricane evacuation routes, as well as shelters outside the evacuation zone.
- Make sure your vehicles are in good, working conditions and able to make a potential several-hundred-mile trip.
- Put together a “go-bag” for each member of your family, including pets, that consists of clothes, toiletries, medicines, and anything else needed to survive comfortably away from home for several days.
- Put together a general emergency preparedness kit:
 - Water (1 gallon per person per day)
 - Non-perishable food
 - First aid kit
 - Whistle to signal for help if trapped in debris
 - Battery-powered weather radio with extra batteries
 - Flashlight
 - Cash
- Know the difference!
 - Hurricane/Tropical Storm Watch: When hurricane conditions are possible in the next 48 hours. Stay tuned into alerts & look over the evacuation route. Double-check your emergency preparedness kit.
 - Hurricane/Tropical Storm Warning: When hurricane conditions are expected within 36 hours. Time to evacuate to a safe shelter outside the evacuation zone with your family and pets. Stay in contact with family and friends using phones or social media to let them know you’re safe.
- Preparing your home:
 - Take pictures of your property, both inside and out. This will come in handy if/when talking to your insurance provider about storm damage.
 - Cut down any trees or branches that could fall on or be blown into the house.
 - Bring inside any outdoor objects that could be picked up and thrown by strong winds.
 - Board up all windows to prevent broken glass.
 - Clear out drains and gutters to keep them from flooding when it rains heavily.
 - Purchase a generator and gasoline, and make sure it works ahead of time. Electricity can be out for weeks after a hurricane.
 - Unplug electronic devices and turn off utilities as directed to do so by authorities before evacuating.
 - Large pets or livestock that cannot be taken with you when evacuating should be evacuated well ahead of time, so it’s important to have a plan in place for this.

