BE IN THE KNOW ABOUT TROPICAL STORMS

BE PREPARED FOR TROPICAL STORMS BY KNOWING THE FACTS

• The Atlantic hurricane season begins on June 1 and ends on November 30, with August through September being the peak season. The Eastern Pacific hurricane season stretches from May 15 to November 30.
• An average tropical storm or hurricane is 5-6 miles high and 400+ miles wide, but some have been known to be larger or smaller in size.
• 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.
• Storms that have sustained winds above 74 mph are called hurricanes in the Atlantic and East Pacific oceans, typhoons in the West Pacific ocean and cyclones in the Indian and South Pacific oceans.
• A storm becomes classified as a tropical storm when its sustained winds reach 39 mph and a hurricane when the sustained winds reach 74 mph.
• 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