

**PLAN,
PREPARE
AND BE
AWARE:**

Hurricanes are powerful and unpredictable storms that can cause significant damage to property and pose a serious threat to personal safety. It's crucial to stay informed about potential storms by monitoring weather forecasts and paying attention to official warnings issued by local authorities. It's also essential to have an emergency plan in place that includes evacuation procedures, necessary supplies, and communication methods. By taking these steps, you can help keep yourself and your loved ones safe during a hurricane.

EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM (EAS): A state-of-the-art digital system designed to give emergency information and instructions from Federal, State, and local authorities. The system is interfaced with the cable television system as well as radio and television stations. When activated, it broadcasts the latest information on weather reports, road conditions, evacuations, shelter locations, and reentry information.

EVACUATION ORDER: The most important instruction you will receive from local government officials.

EYE: The low-pressure center of a tropical cyclone or hurricane. Though the most intense area of the storm surrounds it, winds are normally calm and sometimes the sky clears.

EYE WALL: The ring of thunderstorms that surrounds a storm's eye. The heaviest rain, strongest winds and worst turbulence are normally in the eye wall.

FLASH FLOOD: A flood that occurs within a few hours (usually less than six [6]) of heavy or excessive rainfall or dam or levee failure.

GALE: Sustained wind speeds from 39 to 54 miles per hour (mph) (34 to 47 knots).

HURRICANE: A severe tropical cyclone with sustained winds over 74 mph (64 knots).

KNOT(s): Unit of speed used in aviation and marine activities. One (1) knot is equal to 1.15 mph.

STORM SURGE: A rise of the sea level along the shore that builds up as a storm (usually a hurricane) moves over water. It is a result of the winds of the storm and low atmospheric pressures.

STORM TRACK: The path that a low-pressure area follows.

TORNADO: A violently rotating column of air classified into three (3) main groups; weak – wind speeds up to 110 mph; strong

- wind speeds 110 to 205 mph; and violent
- wind speeds 205 to perhaps 320 mph.

TROPICAL OR SUBTROPICAL

DEPRESSION: Cyclones that have maximum sustained winds of 38 mph (33 knots) or less. These are referred to as low-pressure systems in public advisories and statements.

TROPICAL STORM: Tropical cyclone that has maximum sustained winds from 39 to 73 mph (34 to 63 knots).

WARNING: Issued when a particular weather or flood hazard is "imminent" or already occurring (e.g., tornado warning or flash flood warning). A warning is used for conditions posing a threat to life or property.

WATCH: Forecast issued in advance to alert the public of the possibility of a particular weather-related hazard (tornado watch, flash flood watch). It is intended to provide enough lead time so those who need to set their plans in motion can do so.





FLOODING: A natural condition that is the result of an overflowing river, heavy rain, dam break, levee failure, or snow or ice melting too fast. Hurricanes and tornadoes can also cause flooding.

HAILSTORM: Severe thunderstorms in which chunks of ice fall along with rain.

HURRICANE: A tropical storm with sustained winds at least 74 mph on the Saffir-Simpson Scale. Heavy rain, strong winds, and large waves can damage cars, buildings, and homes. Hurricane season runs from June 1 – November 30.

TORNADO: A violent storm that appears as a funnel-shaped cone with winds that can be as strong as 300 mph or more. Tornadoes can also occur within other storms, such as hurricanes.

ICE STORM: Ice storms consist of freezing temperatures and heavy precipitation, usually in the form of rain, freezing rain, or sleet, and sometimes in the form of snow and ice.

STORM SURGE: Storm surge is an abnormal rise of water generated by a storm, over and above the predicted astronomical tides. Storm surge should not be confused with storm tide, which is defined as the water level rise due to the combination of storm surge and the astronomical tide.

SUBSIDENCE: Subsidence is the loss of surface elevation due to the removal of subsurface support. Along with sea level rise, subsidence can accelerate coastal erosion and wetland loss, as well as increase flooding.

WILDFIRE: An uncontrolled fire that spreads through vegetation and possibly exposes and consumes structures. Wildfires can be caused by human acts such as arson or careless accidents, as well as by natural occurrences such as lightning.

DAM FAILURE: Dam failure can occur when there is a breach or collapse in the structure of a dam.

LEVEE FAILURE: A levee failure involves the overtopping, breaching, or collapsing of a levee.

HAZARDOUS-MATERIALS

INCIDENT: A man-made disaster or hazardous-materials incidents involve accidental or intentional releases of chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear materials.

