

Emergency **WEATHER** Information

HURRICANES

Hurricanes, tropical cyclones with torrential rains and sustained winds of 74 miles per hour or greater, blow in a counter-clockwise direction around a center “eye.” Hurricane winds can exceed 155 miles per hour and severely affect areas hundreds of miles inland.

Hurricanes are rated on a 1-5 scale, with 1 being the weakest. Category 3, 4, and 5 hurricanes are considered major storms.

Saffir–Simpson Hurricane Scale

Category	Damage	Winds	Storm Surge
1	Minimal	74-95 mph	4-5 ft.
2	Moderate	96-110 mph	6-8 ft.
3	Extensive	111-130 mph	9-12 ft.
4	Extreme	131-155 mph	13-18 ft.
5	Catastrophic	156 mph	18 ft. +

What Should You Do?

- Listen for information and instructions on radio, television newscasts or NOAA Weather Radio.
- Inventory personal property. Secure all essential records and valuable documents in a safe, water-tight place.
- Get together with family members to talk about what needs to be done.
- Moor your boat securely.
- Shutter, board or tape windows.
- Refill prescription medications, secure credit cards and cash.
- If your job requires you to work during a storm, make sure that at least one adult will be with children, the elderly or those with special needs.

Hurricane Terms

Hurricane Watch: Issued for coastal areas when there is a threat of a hurricane to a specific area, generally within 36 hours.

Hurricane Warning: Issued when hurricane conditions are expected in a specific coastal area in 24 hours or less. Hurricane conditions include sustained winds of at least 74 miles per hour and/or dangerous high tides.

- Prepare to bring inside lawn furniture and other loose, lightweight objects, such as garbage cans, garden tools, propane grills and children’s toys.
- Check batteries and stock up on canned foods, first aid supplies, drinking water and medications.
- Make arrangements for pets. Pets may not be allowed into public shelters for health reasons. Contact your local humane society for additional information.
- Review procedure on how to shut off utilities. Know where gas pilots are located and how heating and air conditioning systems work.
- Fuel your car, review evacuation routes and be prepared to evacuate upon the recommendation of your local emergency management office.