



HURRICANES

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Hurricanes are powerful destructive storms spawned over the warm waters of the tropical North Atlantic, Caribbean Sea or Gulf of Mexico. They move northward from June to November striking the coastal states most frequently in August, September and October.

A tropical storm becomes a hurricane when its winds reach sustained speeds of 74 mph. Winds near the storm's center and temporary gusts can reach 200 mph at the earth's surface. Squalls may extend as much as 500 miles from the "eye," gradually diminishing in force with increasing distance from the storm center. In addition to destructive winds, hurricanes often bring high tides and heavy rain measuring 5 to 10 inches, or more. They may leave a path of destruction 25 to 500 miles wide when they strike land.

Keep well-informed when a hurricane or tropical storm is detected. Modern hurricane warning services usually provide plenty of time to prepare for a storm. Your local radio and television station will provide current information supplied by the National Weather Service. You should be familiar with the following terms which are used in storm advisories.

Advisory. Advisory messages concerning tropical storms and hurricanes giving warning information along with details on where the storm is located, how intense it is, where it is moving and what precautions should be taken.

Bulletin. A public release during periods between advisories giving latest details on the storm.

Hurricane Force Winds. Winds of 74 mph (64 knots) or higher.

Hurricane Watch. An announcement issued by the National Weather Service to the public whenever a tropical storm or hurricane becomes a threat to coastal areas. This announcement is not a warning; it indicates that the hurricane is near enough so that everyone in the area covered by the "watch" should listen for subsequent advisories and be ready to take precautionary

action in case hurricane warnings are issued.

Squall. A strong wind usually associated with a thunderstorm or shower that increases suddenly in speed, maintains its peak speed over a period of 2 or more minutes, and then decreases quickly.

Storm Tide. The abnormally high water that is associated with tropical storms or hurricanes as they approach or move across the coast line.

Tropical Depression. An area of low atmospheric pressure originating over tropical waters with winds blowing counterclockwise around the center at speeds less than 38 mph.

Tropical Storm. A storm of tropical origin having winds near its center greater than 38 mph but less than 74 mph.

Hurricane Warning. A warning indicating that hurricane winds of 74 mph, or higher, or a combination of dangerously high water and very rough seas are expected in a specified area. When a hurricane warning is announced, hurricane conditions are considered imminent and may begin immediately or at least within 24 hours. Precautionary actions should begin immediately.

Gale Warning. A warning of winds within the range of 39 to 54 mph.

Storm Warning. A warning of winds within the range of 55 to 73 mph.

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