

REVISIT, REFRESH, PREPARE
Revisit your hurricane plan, refresh your hurricane plan and supplies and prepare for an active hurricane season.

Know your hurricane terminology

HURRICANE: An intense tropical weather system with a well-defined circulation and maximum sustained winds of 74 mph or higher.

TROPICAL STORM: An organized system of strong thunderstorms with a well-defined circulation and maximum sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph. **TROPICAL DEPRESSION:** An organized system of clouds and thunderstorms with a defined circulation and maximum sustained winds of 38 mph or less.

STORM SURGE: This large dome of water often 50 to 100 miles wide sweeps ashore near where a hurricane strikes land and typically accounts for nine of 10 storm deaths. A surge of up to 15 feet or more can cause severe flooding and damage along the coast, particularly when the storm surge coincides with normal high tides. Hurricane Katrina's storm surge was more than 20 feet in many locations.

TORNADOES: Even though a hurricane or tropical storm weakens as it moves inland, it can produce deadly and damaging tornadoes.

FLOODING: Typically, hurricanes bring heavy rains which can compound drainage problems in areas experiencing storm surge flooding. Rainfall totals of 10 inches or more are not uncommon when a tropical storm or hurricane moves across a coastal location. Over land, torrential rain may continue even after the wind has diminished. Rainfall totals of this magnitude could easily result in destructive flash flooding and river flooding. In the 1970's through 1990's more people died from fresh water flooding than from storm surge. Flooding also causes extensive property and agricultural losses.