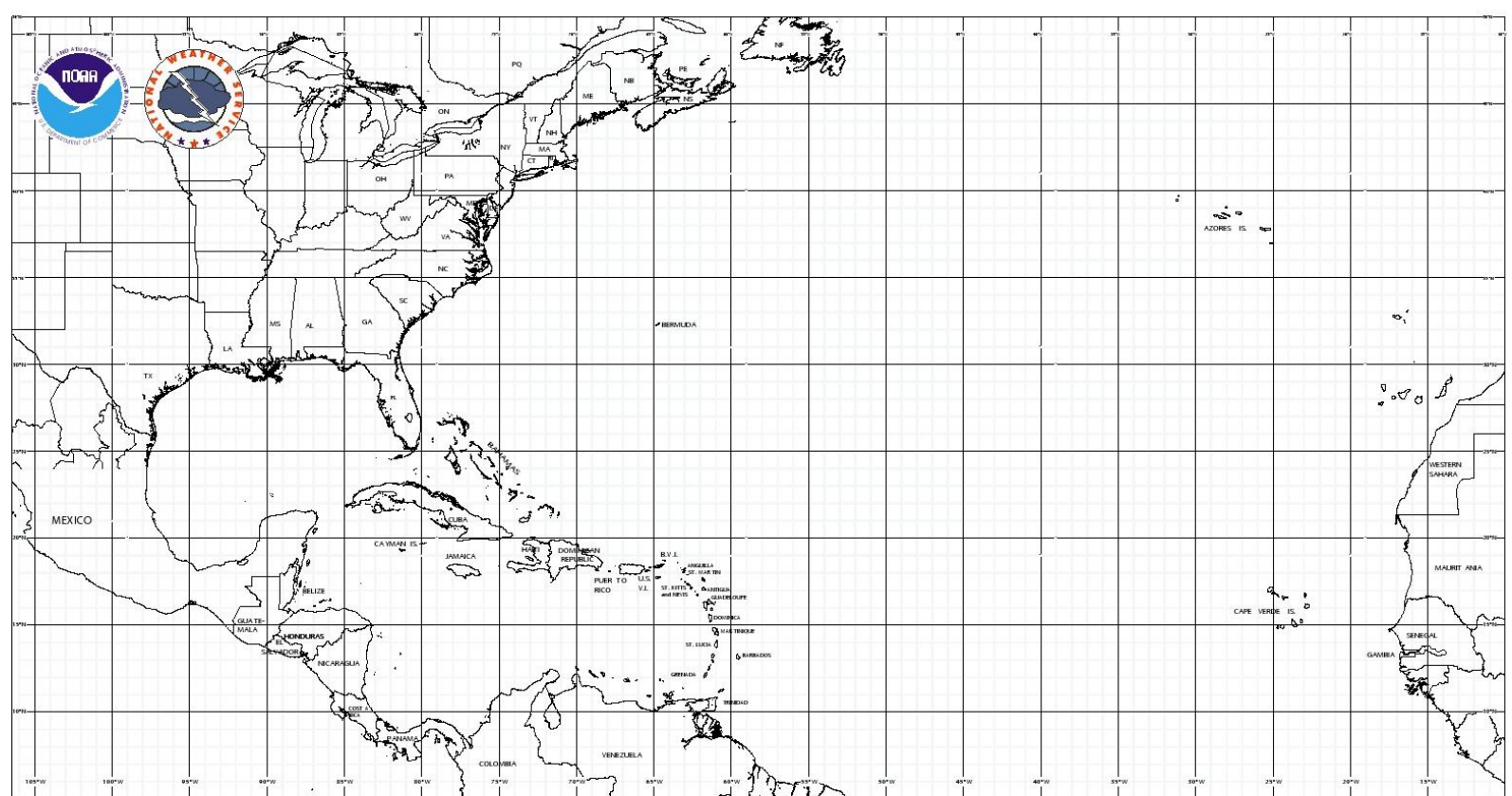


When is Hurricane Season?

Hurricane Season, the time in which we are most likely to experience the threats of Hurricane and Tropical Storm activity, begins June 1 and continues until November 30 every year.

Hurricane Categories

Atlantic Basin Hurricane Tracking Chart
National Hurricane Center, Miami, Florida



This is a reduced version of the chart used to track hurricanes at the National Hurricane Center

Category One Hurricane

- Maximum Sustained Wind Speed: 74-95 miles per hour
- Damage Category: Minimal

Category Two Hurricane

- Maximum Sustained Wind Speed: 96-110 miles per hour
- Damage Category: Moderate

Category Three Hurricane

- Maximum Sustained Wind Speed: 111-129 miles per hour
- Damage Category: Extensive

Category Four Hurricane

- Maximum Sustained Wind Speed: 130-156 miles per hour
- Damage Category: Extreme

Category Five Hurricane

- Maximum Sustained Wind Speed: 157 miles per hour and higher
- Damage Category: Catastrophic
- Examples: Only three Category 5 hurricanes have struck the United States since records began: The Labor Day Hurricane (1935) in the Florida Keys, Hurricane Camille (1969) near the mouth of the Mississippi River, and Hurricane Andrew (1992) in Florida

There is no Category Six for hurricanes. While some have suggested such a category, since only three Category Five storms have struck the United States, Category Five would appear to be more than adequate.

What should I do before a hurricane?

- Know the terms used by weather forecasters.
 - HURRICANE WATCH - A hurricane is possible within 36 hours. Stay tuned for additional advisories.
 - HURRICANE WARNING - A hurricane is expected within 24 hours. If advised to evacuate, do so immediately.
- Listen for local radio or television weather forecasts. Purchase a NOAA weather radio with warning alarm tone and battery back-up.
- Learn evacuation routes. Determine where you would go and how you would get there if you needed to evacuate. You can get information on the Lafayette Parish Hurricane Evacuation Routes by [clicking here](#).
- Talk to your family about hurricanes. Plan a place to meet your family in case you are separated from one another in a disaster. Choose an out-of-state contact for everyone to call to say they are okay.
- Determine the needs of family members who may live elsewhere but need your help in a hurricane. Consider the special needs of neighbors.

- Prepare to survive on your own for at least three days. Assemble a disaster supplies kit. Include a battery-powered radio, flashlights, extra batteries, a first-aid kit, blankets, clothing and food and water.
 - Make plans to protect your property. Permanent storm shutters offer the best protection for windows. A second option is to board up windows with 5/8" marine plywood, cut to fit and ready to install. Tape does not prevent windows from breaking.
 - Know how to shut off utilities. Know where gas pilots are located and how the heating and air-conditioning system works.
 - Have your home inspected for compliance with local building codes. Many of the roofs destroyed by hurricanes were destroyed because they were not constructed according to building codes.
 - Consider flood insurance.
 - Make a record of your personal property. Take photographs of or videotape your belongings.
-

What should I do if a hurricane threatens?

- Listen for information and instructions on radio or television newscasts. If a hurricane watch is issued, you have 24 to 36 hours before the hurricane hits land. A hurricane warning means that hurricane winds and storm tides are expected in a specific coastal area within 24 hours.
- Get together with family members to talk about what needs to be done. Make sure everyone knows where to meet and who to call, in case you are separated from one another.
- Secure your home. Close storm shutters. Secure outdoor objects or bring them indoors. Moor your boat if time permits.
- Gather several days supply of water and food for each family member. Water systems may become contaminated or damaged. Sterilize and fill the bathtub to ensure a supply of safe water.
- Make arrangements for pets. Pets may not be allowed into public shelters for health reasons.
- Prepare to evacuate. Fuel your car. Review evacuation routes. If instructed, turn off utilities at the main valves.
- Evacuate to an inland location if:
 - Local authorities announce an evacuation and you live in an evacuation zone.
 - You live in a mobile home or temporary structure - they are particularly hazardous during hurricanes.
 - You live on the coast, on a flood plain near a river or inland waterway.

- You feel you are in danger.
 - When authorities order an evacuation:
 - Leave immediately to avoid being marooned by flooded roads and fallen trees.
 - Follow evacuation routes announced by local officials via radio and television broadcasts.
 - Stay away from coastal areas, river banks and streams until potential flooding is past.
 - And tell others where you are going.
 - If you are not required to evacuate, stay indoors during the hurricane and away from windows. Do not be fooled if there is a lull, it could be the eye of the storm-winds will pick up again. Listen to the radio or television for information.
 - Avoid using the phone except for serious emergencies.
-

What should I do after a hurricane?

- Stay where you are if you are in a safe location until local authorities say it is okay to leave. If you evacuated the community, do not return until authorities say it is okay to return.
- Keep tuned to local radio or television stations for information about caring for your family, where to find medical help, how to apply for financial assistance, etc.
- Consider your family's health and safety needs. Keep your family together. Set up a manageable schedule to repair property. Be aware of symptoms of stress and fatigue.
- Talk with your children about what has happened and how they can help during the recovery. Being involved will help them deal with the situation.
- Stay away from disaster areas unless local authorities request volunteers.
- Drive only when necessary. The streets will be filled with debris. Roads may have weakened and can collapse under the weight of a car.
- Stay away from river banks and streams until potential flooding has passed.
- Stay away from downed power lines and report them to the power company. Report broken gas, sewer or water mains.
- Contact your insurance agent. Take photos of or videotape the damage.
- Separate damaged and undamaged belongings.
- Locate your financial records. Keep detailed records of cleanup costs

