

Hurricane Category and Effects Chart



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| <p>Category 1 - Minimal</p> <p>Storm surges are usually 4-5 feet above normal</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage primarily restricted to shrubbery, trees, and unanchored mobile homes; no substantial damage to other structures; some damage to poorly constructed signs. • Some coastal road flooding and minor pier damage. |
| <p>Category 2 - Moderate</p> <p>Storm surges are usually 6-8 feet above normal</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considerable damage to shrubbery and tree foliage, some trees blown down; major damage to exposed mobile homes; extensive damage to poorly constructed signs and some damage to windows, doors and roofing materials of buildings, but no major destruction to buildings. • Coastal roads and low-lying escape routes inland cut off by rising water about two to four hours before landfall; considerable damage to piers, marinas flooded; small craft in protected anchorage torn from moorings. |
| <p>Category 3 - Extensive</p> <p>Storm surges are usually 9-12 feet above normal</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foliage torn from trees; large trees blown down; poorly constructed signs blown down; some damage to roofing, windows, and doors; some structural damage to small buildings; mobile homes destroyed. • Serious flooding along the coast; many small structures near the coast destroyed; larger coastal structures damaged by battering waves and floating debris. • Low-lying escape routes inland cut off by rising water about three to five hours before landfall; flat terrain 5 feet or less above sea level flooded up to 8 or more miles inland. • Evacuation of low-lying residences within several blocks of shoreline may be required. |
| <p>Category 4 - Extreme</p> <p>Storm surges are usually 13-18 feet above normal</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shrubs, trees, and all signs blown down; extensive damage to roofs, windows, and doors, with complete failure of roofs on many smaller residences; mobile homes demolished. • Flat terrain 10 feet or less above sea level flooded inland as far as 6 miles; flooding and battering by waves and floating debris cause major damage to lower floors of structures near the shore; low-lying escape routes inland cut off by rising water about three to five hours before landfall; major erosion of beaches • Massive evacuation of inland residences as far inland as 6 miles may be required. |
| <p>Category 5 - Catastrophic</p> <p>Storm surges are usually 18 or more feet above normal</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees, shrubs, and all signs blown down; considerable damage to roofs of buildings, with very severe and extensive damage to windows and doors; complete failure on many roofs of residences and industrial buildings; extensive shattering of glass in windows and doors; complete buildings destroyed; small building overturned or blown away; mobile homes demolished. • Major damage to lower floors of all structures less than 15 feet above sea level within 1500 feet of the shore. • Low-lying escape routes inland cut off by rising water about three to five hours before landfall; major erosion of beaches. • Massive evacuation of residential areas on low ground as far inland as 10 miles may be required. |