

**U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS  
COMMISSIONER'S HURRICANE SURVIVAL  
TOOLBOX KIT**

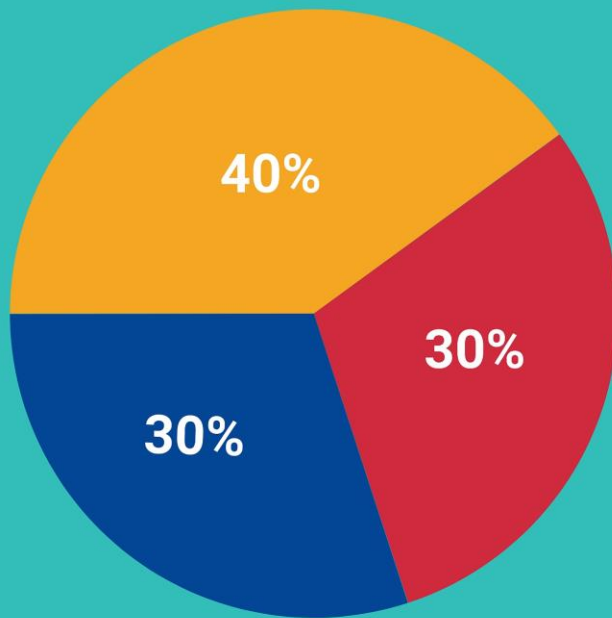


**Hurricane Season 2023  
Are You Ready?**

# NOAA Predicted Hurricane Activity



## 2023 Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook



■ Above normal   ■ Near normal   ■ Below normal

Season probability

Named storms

12 - 17

Hurricanes

5 - 9

Major hurricanes

1 - 4

Be prepared: Visit [hurricanes.gov](https://hurricanes.gov) and follow @NWS and @NHC\_Atlantic on Twitter.

May 2023





# 2023 Atlantic Tropical Cyclone Names

Arlene  
Bret  
Cindy  
Don  
Emily  
Franklin  
Gert

Harold  
Idalia  
Jose  
Katia  
Lee  
Margot  
Nigel







Ophelia  
Philippe  
Rina  
Sean  
Tammy  
Vince  
Whitney

Names provided by the World Meteorological Organization

Be prepared: Visit [hurricanes.gov](https://hurricanes.gov) and follow @NWS and @NHC\_Atlantic on Twitter.

May 2023

## Hurricane Safety Key Terms

 <b>STORM WATCH</b> Storms are possible in a specified area within 48 hours	 <b>STORM WARNING</b> Storms expected in a specified area within 36 hours	 <b>TROPICAL DISTURBANCE</b> Rain clouds start forming over warm ocean waters	 <b>TROPICAL DEPRESSION</b> Area of rotating thunderstorms at 38 mph or less	 <b>TROPICAL STORM</b> Forms when winds reach 39 to 73 mph	 <b>HURRICANE</b> Winds 74 mph with the ability to reach 157 mph or greater
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# Hurricane Safety Key Terms

The best way to prepare for a tropical storm or hurricane is to understand their definitions and follow procedure. Knowing key terms and phrases can help build an understanding of when a life-threatening situation may occur and how to react.

# Hurricane Advisories

## WARNING

A warning is issued when a hazardous weather or hydrologic event is **occurring, imminent or likely**. A warning means weather conditions pose a threat to life or property. People in the path of the storm need to **take protective action**.

## WATCH

A watch is used when the **risk of a hazardous weather or hydrologic event has increased significantly**, but its occurrence, location or timing is **still uncertain**. A watch means that hazardous weather is possible. People should **have a plan of action** in case a storm threatens and they should listen for later information and possible warnings especially when planning travel or outdoor activities.

## ADVISORY

An advisory is issued when a hazardous weather or hydrologic event is **occurring, imminent or likely**. Advisories are for **less serious conditions than warnings**, that cause significant inconvenience and if caution is not exercised, could lead to situations that may threaten life or property.

## OUTLOOK

An outlook is issued when a hazardous weather or hydrologic event is **possible** in the next week. Outlooks are intended to **raise awareness** of the potential for significant weather that could lead to situations that may threaten life or property.



# PREPARE



# ACTION

## OUTLOOK

- Issued **3-5 days** before the onset of potential significant weather
- Issued as a Special Weather Statement of significant areas of disturbed weather and potential for development in the next 5 days
- Highlights the **potential** for significant hurricane weather
- Geared towards helping individuals and decision makers **plan** for hazardous weather
- **Possible Actions:**
  - ✓ Review action plan
  - ✓ Continue to actively monitor forecast updates

## ADVISORY

- Issued **36-48 hours** in advance of tropical storm/hurricane force winds (can be issued earlier when there is high confidence)
- Signifies an increase in forecaster confidence that significant weather is expected to occur
- List all potential hazards associated with a tropical storm/hurricane in certain areas
- **Possible Actions:**
  - ✓ Execute action plan?
  - ✓ State of preparation resources and response team

## WATCH

- Issued **0-36 hours** before the onset of hazardous weather
- Hazardous conditions will occur, but amounts are not expected to warning criteria
- Hurricane and/or Tropical storm conditions are **POSSIBLE** in Watch Areas
- **Impacts are expected!**
- **Possible Actions:**
  - ✓ Staff readiness?
  - ✓ Is action plan being executed/ready to be executed?
  - ✓ Contingency plans for departments, schools

## WARNING

- Issued **0-36 hours** in advance of onset of tropical storm or hurricane force winds
- Hurricane and/or tropical storm conditions are **EXPECTED** in Warning Areas
- **Dangerous weather with significant hazardous impacts expected!**
- **Possible Actions:**
  - ✓ Staff readiness
  - ✓ Facility readiness
  - ✓ Resources ready
  - ✓ Execute action plan
  - ✓ Execute response team
  - ✓ All preparations completed

# Storm Categories: What Damages to Expect

## SAFFIR/SIMPSON HURRICANE SCALE

### TROPICAL STORM

**Winds: 39-73 mph**

**Damage: Minimal damage with windy and rainy conditions**

**Wind Effects:** Scattered trees down, scattered power outages, some roads blocked due to downed trees and power lines. *For example, neighborhoods could lose power for several days.*



### CATEGORY 1

**Winds: 74-95 mph**

**Damage: Very dangerous winds will produce some damage**

**Wind Effects:** Damage to mobile structures and some buildings of frame construction. Numerous trees down and widespread power outages. Roads blocked due to downed trees and power lines. Loose outdoor items will become airborne projectiles. *For example, several areas could experience near total power loss.*



### CATEGORY 2

**Winds: 96-110 mph**

**Damage: Extremely dangerous winds will cause extensive damage**

**Wind Effects:** Severe damage to majority of mobile structures and buildings of frame constructions. Considerable damage to shrubbery and some trees blown down. Well-constructed buildings will have damage to roof, siding and gutters. Extensive damage to power lines and widespread power outages. Airborne debris could injure or kill. *For example, multiple localities could experience near total loss of power and water for several days.*



# Storm Categories: What Damages to Expect

## SAFFIR/SIMPSON HURRICANE SCALE

### CATEGORY 3

**Winds: 111-130 mph**

**Damage: Devastating damage will occur**

**Wind Effects:** Nearly all mobile structures destroyed. Severe damage to most homes and buildings, including structural collapse. Airborne debris will injure or kill. Severe damage to most low-rise buildings with partial roof and wall failure. Foliage blown off trees and large trees blown down. *For example, large portions of the affected area could experience total power and water loss for more than a week.*



### CATEGORY 4

**Winds: 131-155 mph**

**Damage: Catastrophic damage will occur**

**Wind Effects:** Catastrophic damage to residential and commercial structures. Most of the affected area will be uninhabitable for weeks or longer. Nearly all residential buildings severely damaged or destroyed. Major damage to lower floors of structures near shore. Nearly all trees and power poles downed. *For example, large portions of the affected area will experience total power and water loss for weeks and possibly months.*



### CATEGORY 5

**Winds: 156+ mph**

**Damage: Extreme catastrophic damage will occur**

**Wind Effects:** Complete roof failure on many residential and commercial buildings. Some complete building failures with small utility buildings blown away. All shrubs, trees and signs blown down. Complete destruction of mobile structures. Severe and extensive window and door damage. Major damage to lower floors of all structures. *For example, large portions of the affected area will experience total power and water loss for weeks and possibly months.*





# Steps of Emergency Management

## **Prevention**

Actions taken to avoid an incident. Stopping an incident from occurring. Deterrence operations and surveillance.

## **Mitigation**

Refers to measures that prevent an emergency, reduce the chance of an emergency happening, or reduce the damaging effects of unavoidable emergencies. Typical mitigation measures include establishing building codes and zoning requirements, installing shutters, and constructing barriers such as levees.

## **Preparedness**

Activities increase a community's ability to respond when a disaster occurs. Typical preparedness measures include developing mutual aid agreements and memorandums of understanding, training for response personnel conducting disaster exercises to reinforce training and test capabilities and presenting all-hazards education campaigns.

## **Response**

Actions carried out immediately before, during, and immediately after a hazard impact, which are aimed at saving lives, reducing economic losses, and alleviating suffering. Response actions may include activating the emergency operations center, evacuating threatened populations, opening shelters and providing mass care, emergency rescue and medical care, fire fighting, and urban search and rescue.

## **Recovery**

Actions taken to return a community to normal or near-normal conditions, including the restoration of basic services and the repair of physical, social and economic damages. Typical recovery actions include debris cleanup, financial assistance to individuals and governments, rebuilding of roads, key facilities, and sustained mass care for displaced individuals.



# Is Your Workplace Ready For A Hurricane?

Without preparation and an adequate disaster recovery plan, consequences have been proven to be catastrophic. Don't be caught unprepared. See VIDOSH Best Practices for Hurricane Preparedness and VIDOSH Best Practices for Hurricane Response and Recovery to get your workplace up and running as quickly as possible. Being prepared for a hurricane and knowing exactly how to respond, helps workplaces become resilient and recover faster than figuring it out on the fly.





# HURRICANE PREPARATION TOOLS



## PREPARATION IS KEY

How to Make Sure Your Office  
Is Hurricane Ready

