American Red Cross

ATLANTIC HURRICANE TRACKING CHART

Always remember

If you live along the coast or in a low-lying area, if you live in a mobile home in an area subject to hurricane water or wind, or if authorities tell you to... Go!

Storm Surge

A storm surge is a dome of water often 50 miles wide that comes sweeping across the coastline near the area where the eye of the hurricane makes landfall. The surge, aided by the hammering effect of breaking waves, acts like a giant bulldozer sweeping away everything in its path. Nine out of ten hurricane deaths are caused by storm surge. That's why it's important to leave well before a hurricane may come your way.

Wind Damage

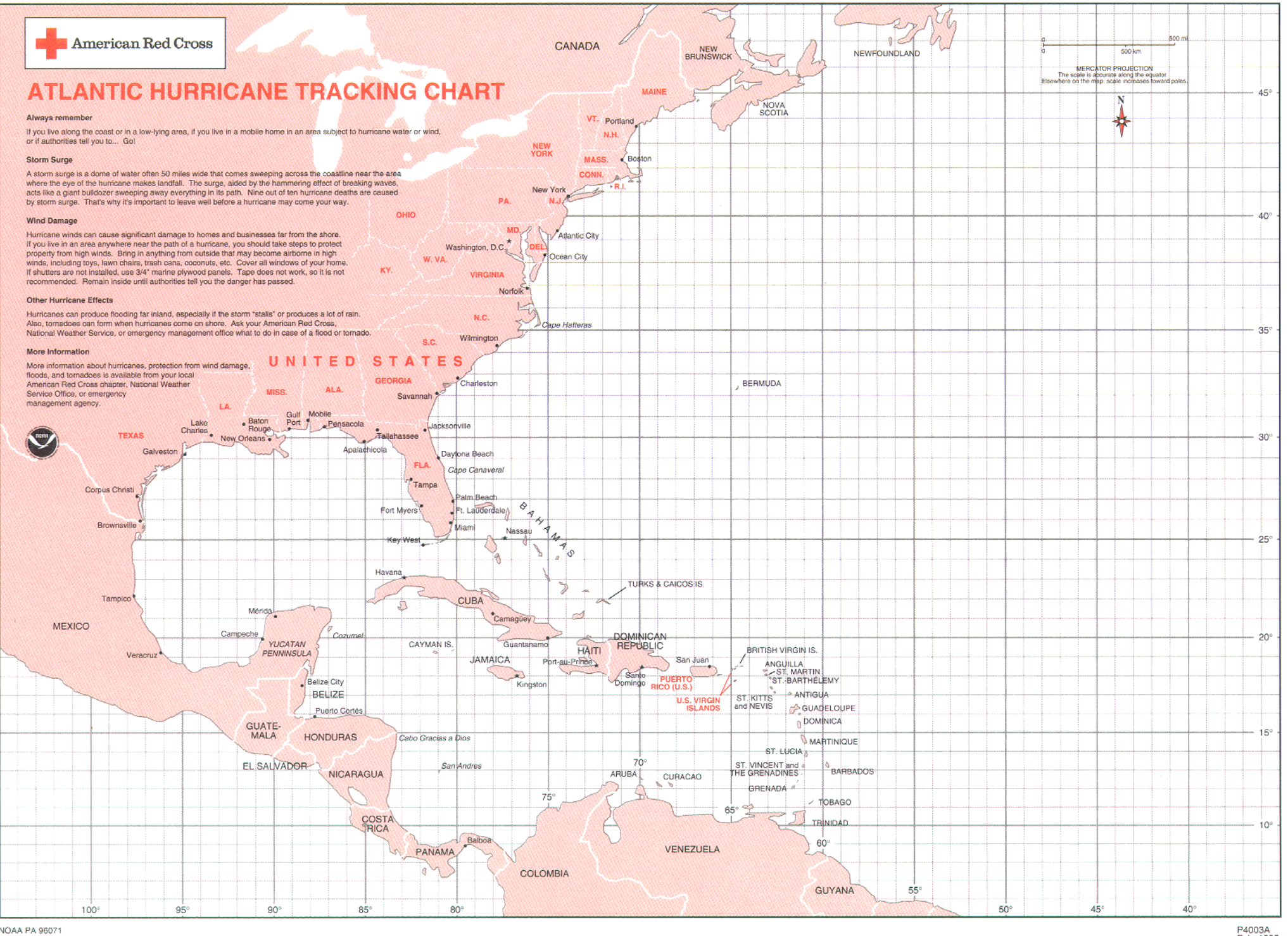
Hurricane winds can cause significant damage to homes and businesses far from the shore. If you live in an area anywhere near the path of a hurricane, you should take steps to protect property from high winds. Bring in anything from outside that may become airborne in high winds, including toys, lawn chairs, trash cans, coconuts, etc. Cover all windows of your home. If shutters are not installed, use 3/4" marine plywood panels. Tape does not work, so it is not recommended. Remain inside until authorities tell you the danger has passed.

Other Hurricane Effects

Hurricanes can produce flooding far inland, especially if the storm "stalls" or produces a lot of rain. Also, tornadoes can form when hurricanes come on shore. Ask your American Red Cross, National Weather Service, or emergency management office what to do in case of a flood or tornado.

More Information

More information about hurricanes, protection from wind damage, floods, and tornadoes is available from your local American Red Cross chapter, National Weather Service Office, or emergency management agency.



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