Table 6-D-1: Generic Damage Characteristics of Hurricanes

(from FEMA-190, Disaster Mitigation Guide for Business and Industry)

SAFFIR	SIMPSON
SCALE	

ONE

TWO

THREE

FOUR

FIVE

Wind



Winds 74-95 mph. Damage to shrubs, trees, foliage, and unanchored mobile homes. Some damage to poorly built signs.

Winds 96-110 mph. Damage to shrubs and foliage. Some trees blown down. Major damage to exposed mobile homes. Some damage to roofing materials and windows.

Winds 111-130 mph. Large trees blown down. Poorly built signs blown down. Some damage to roofing material, windows, and structural damage to small structures. Mobile homes destroyed.

Winds 131-155 mph. Large trees blown down. Most signs down. Extensive damage to roofs and windows. Structural damage to many small structures and destruction of all mobile homes.

Winds greater than 155 mph. Large trees blown down. Most signs blown down. Extensive damage to roofs and windows. Complete failure of many roofs. Structural failure of some buildings. Small buildings overturned. Destruction of all mobile homes.

Stillwater Surge Storm surge 4-5 feet above normal. Low-lying coastal roads flooded, minor pier damage.

Storm surge 6-8 feet above normal, Coastal roads and low inland roads flooded 2 to 4 hours before landfall. Major damage to piers. Evacuation of shoreline residents required.

Storm surge 9-12 feet above normal. Coastal structures flooded and some destroyed. Flooding can occur up to 10 miles inland up to 5 feet above sea level. Low roads flooded 3 to 5 hours before landfall. Evacuation of residents within 5 miles of coast may be required.

Storm surges 13-18 feet above normal. Flooding to 10 feet above sea level up to 30 miles inland. Major flood damage to lower floors of buildings near shore. Low roads flooded 3 to 5 hours before landfall. Evacuation of residents within 30 miles of shore may be required.

Storm surge over 18 feet above normal. Major damage to lower floors of structures less than 15 feet above sea level within.5 miles of shore. Flooding to 10 feet above sea level up to 30 miles inland. Low roads flooded 3 to 5 hours before landfall. Evacuation of residents within 30 miles of shore may be required.



Up to 8 foot waves. Minor damage to structures along shoreline. Some beach erosion. Up to 12 foot waves. Damage to structures along shoreline. Some beach erosion. Up to 18 foot waves. Structures within 2 blocks of shoreline damaged. Moderate beach erosion up to 200 feet. Up to 25 foot waves. Major damage to lower floors of structures up to 1 mile from shore. Major erosion of beach up to 300 feet. Up to 25 foot waves. Major damage to lower floors of structures up to 1 mile from shore. Major erosion of beach up to 300 feet.