

APPENDIX E

SAFFIR-SIMPSON HURRICANE WIND SCALE

Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale: The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale (SSHWS) is a scale on a 1 to 5 categorization based on the hurricane's intensity at the indicated time. The scale provides examples of the type of damages and impacts associated with winds of the indicated intensity. In general, damage rises by a factor of four for every category increase. The maximum sustained surface wind peak (peak 1-minute wind at the standard meteorological observation height of 10 m [33 ft] over unobstructed exposure) associated with the cyclone is the determining factor in the scale. (Note that sustained winds can be stronger in hilly or mountain terrain compared with that experienced over flat terrain). Details for the Atlantic and Eastern Pacific Hurricane Basins and Central Pacific Hurricane Basin regarding the SSHWS can be found at the web sites indicated below.

Atlantic and Eastern Pacific Hurricane Basins: <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutsshs.shtml>.

Central Pacific Hurricane Basin: <http://www.prh.noaa.gov/cphc/pages/aboutsshs.php>.

