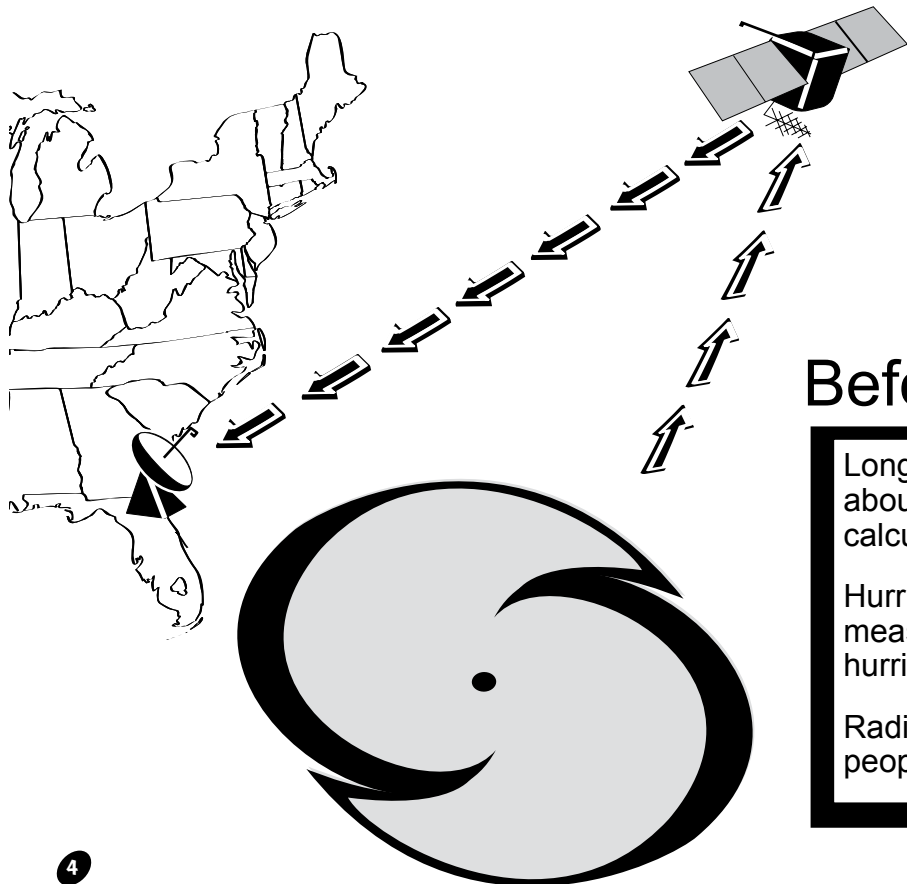
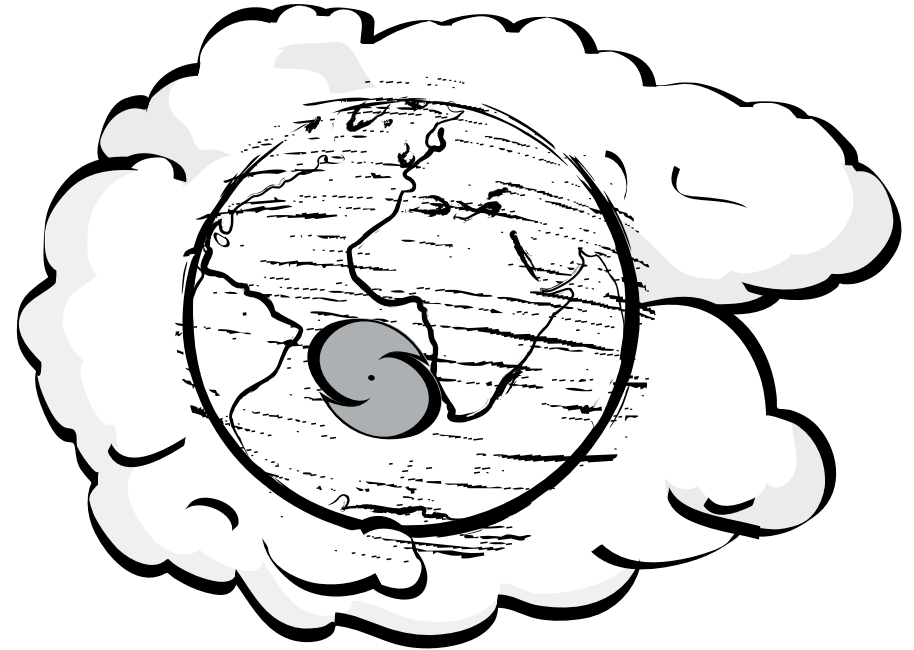


Hurricanes

The air that surrounds our planet weights 5,000,000,000,000,000 (5 quadrillion) tons! That's 13,700,000,000 (13 billion, 700 million) Empire State Buildings!

Air is moving all the time—swirling, blowing, sinking, rising. In summer and early fall, great masses of air move over the warm oceans. The oceans get hot, pick up lots of water and start swirling, blowing, sinking and rising.

A hurricane is born. If the hurricane moves toward the shore, powerful winds, high tides and flooding could wipe out cities, towns, farms and schools.



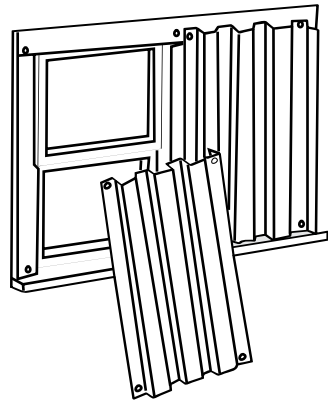
Before the hurricane reaches you . . .

Long before a hurricane hits land, the National Weather Service knows about it. Satellites have taken pictures of the storm and computers have calculated where it is going.

Hurricane Hunter airplanes fly into the storm and report more exact measurements. As it comes closer to land, special weather radars track the hurricane.

Radio, television and more than 1000 NOAA Weather Radio stations warn people about the hurricane. It may reach land. Get ready!

Before the Storm Comes . . .



Put boards or storm shutters over windows. Do NOT tape the windows. Taping just leaves gunk on your windows, it doesn't protect them.



Pick up all the small things laying around your yard, like toys, tools and flower pots and bring them inside. The wind could pick them up and send them slamming into windows, cars or you!

If you're not close to shore and plan to stay in your home during the storm, clean drains and prepare for flooding. Always evacuate immediately if ordered to do so!

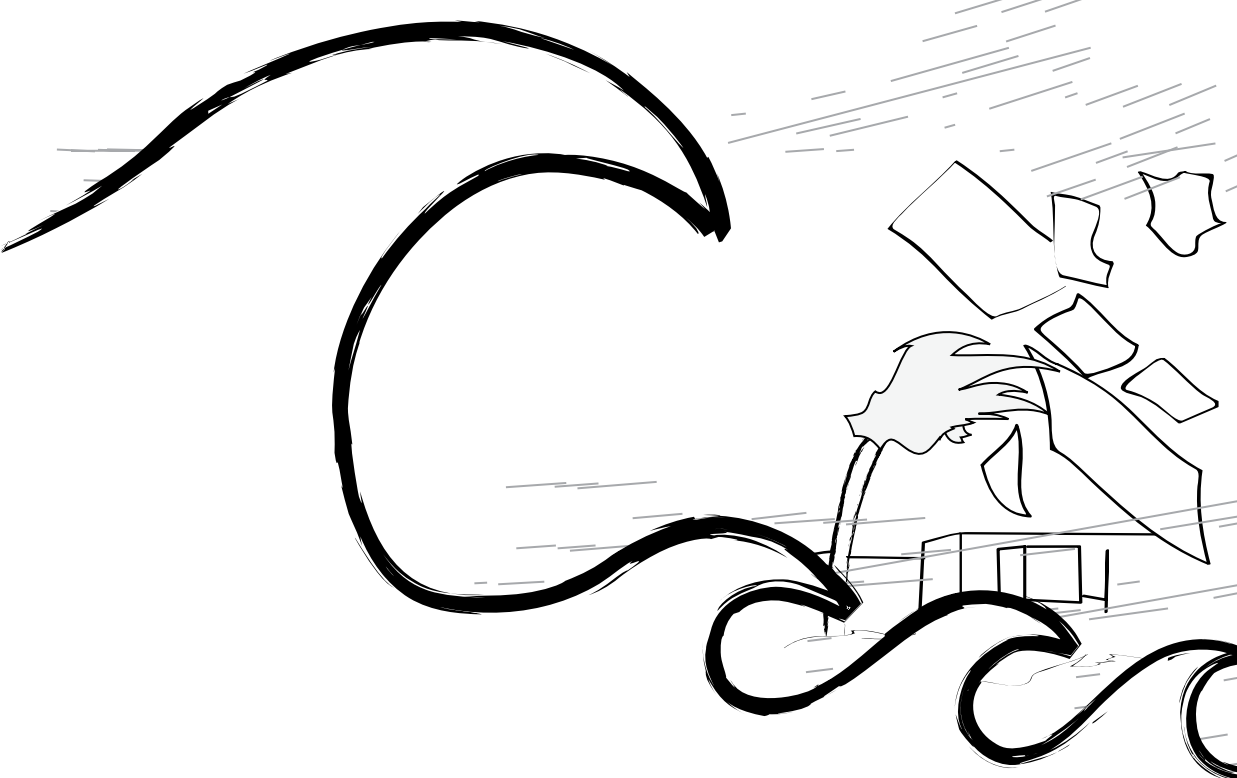


When National Weather Service meteorologists decide a storm might reach land within 2 days, they issue a Hurricane Watch. In the western North Pacific, hurricanes are called typhoons. Both have a well-defined circulation and sustained winds over 73 miles per hour. A Watch tells people who live or work near the coast that the hurricane will likely impact them. The National Weather Service works together with emergency managers and the news media. We will tell you what is happening. Stay tuned!

Hurricane Warning

When the National Weather Service puts out a Hurricane Warning for your area, it means the storm is likely to generate winds more than 73 miles per hour! That's hard enough to blow down trees and other big objects that could hit you or your home. Ouch! A Warning also means dangerous high water, coastal flooding and very rough seas are expected. Hurricanes also create lots of thunderstorms with deadly lightning and even some tornadoes. You definitely need to seek safe shelter during a hurricane. Listen to what the emergency managers in your state are advising. They might tell you to get away from the coast and inland to safety.

Get out when you are told.



When the hurricane hits, the sea may rise as high as 25 feet above normal high tide! That is taller than six kids standing on each other's shoulders!

This extreme coastal flooding due to hurricanes is called the storm surge. The surge can sink boats, destroy piers and damage buildings. Many people who die during a hurricane drown from inland flooding—not due to the high winds.

In a major hurricane, wind speed may be more than 150 miles per hour! Trees are blown down and houses can be damaged. Windows in buildings are blown out. Watch out for flying debris!

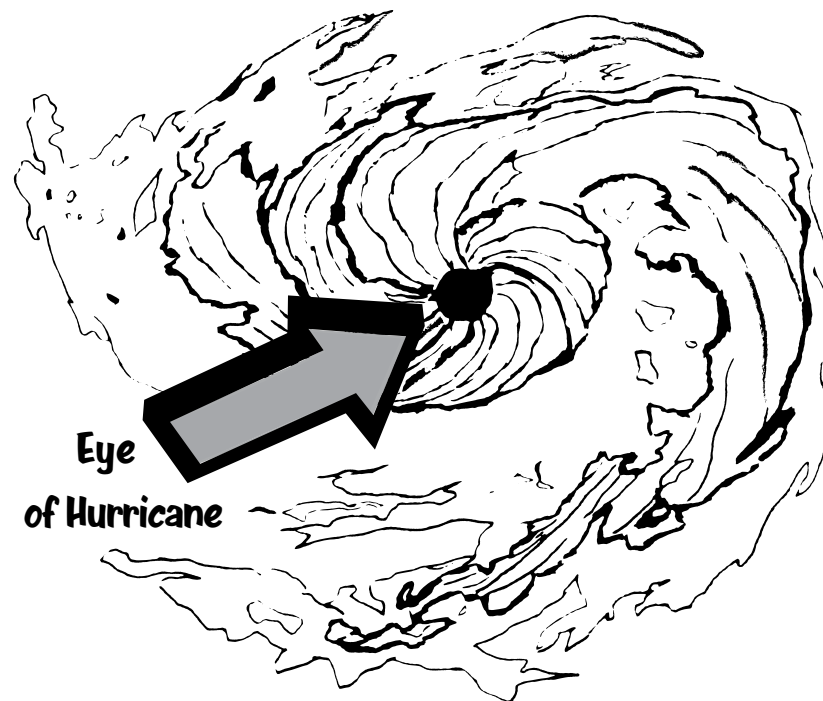
It rains hard in hurricanes. Slow moving storms produce more rain. There may be flooding hundreds of miles from the coast due to heavy rain.

When the Hurricane Comes . . .

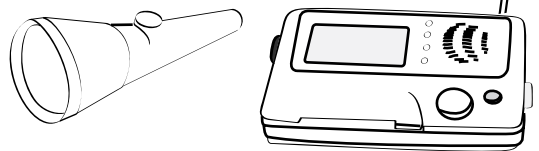
Stay safe by staying indoors. Falling trees, flying debris, downed power lines, flooded roads—it is just not safe to be outdoors. Any decision to evacuate the coast should be made well in advance of the storm's arrival. Follow the guidance of the emergency managers in your area.

Beware of the eye of the hurricane. A hurricane is a big doughnut of wind with a calm section at the middle.

- The whole hurricane can be 300 miles across. The calm center may last from a few minutes to an hour.
- The sun may even come out in the eye and you might think the storm is over. But it isn't. As the hurricane moves on, winds will blow just as hard, but from the opposite direction.



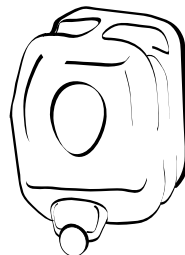
Have flashlights, a radio, and extra batteries in case you lose electricity. A first aid kit also is important to have on hand. Visit <http://www.ready.gov/america/getakit/index.html> for more information.



Hurricanes and

Tropical Storms can kill. Don't be caught by one!

Ensure you have enough water and food stocked up. Water—1 gallon per person, per day (2 week supply for home). Food—2 week supply of non-perishable food. And don't forget food and water for your pets!



**Get out of its way.
Go inland. Do it
immediately!**

Hurricane Quiz

Fill in the blank with the correct words. Use these words:

Watch	eye	radio	flooding
hurricanes	moving	Warning	air
inland	high tides	oceans	

1. The _____ that surrounds our planet weighs five quadrillion tons.
2. Air is _____ all the time. It swirls, blows, sinks and rises.
3. Air moves over warm _____ and picks up lots of moisture.
4. In summer and early fall, _____ form when air masses pick up lots of moisture.
5. Hurricanes cause _____ and _____.
6. A hurricane _____ tells people a hurricane may reach land within 2 days.
7. A hurricane _____ means a hurricane is expected within 36 hours and winds could reach 74 mph or more.
8. NOAA Weather _____ warns people about hurricanes.
9. If you live near the ocean, go _____ where it is safe.
10. The center of a hurricane is called the _____.

Answers on page 46

List 3 things you can do to prepare for a hurricane.

Circle T (True) or F (False) for each sentence below.

- T F 1. High wind is called a storm surge.
T F 2. NOAA Weather Radio stations warn people about hurricanes.
T F 3. Hurricanes usually appear suddenly and surprise everyone.
T F 4. When a hurricane is expected to reach land in 2 days, forecasters issue a Hurricane Warning.
T F 5. Hurricane Hunter airplanes fly into a storm to get information about the hurricane.
T F 6. Hurricane winds can reach 350 mph.
T F 7. Hurricanes cause rain, high tides and flooding.
T F 8. During a hurricane, stay under a tree.
T F 9. Put duct tape on your windows if a hurricane is coming.
T F 10. It is a good idea to have a flash light, radio and extra batteries if a hurricane is expected.

