



# Hurricane Facts

- A hurricane or typhoon is a tropical storm with strong winds blowing in a large spiral around a calm center known as the “eye.”
- Hurricanes can cause heavy rains, strong winds, large waves, and storm surges that can damage buildings, trees, and cars, as well as cause flooding.
- Hurricane season is June 1 to November 30 in the southern Atlantic and Gulf Coast areas. In Pacific Coast areas, the typhoon season is mid-May through November.
- A storm surge is the rapid rise of ocean water levels occurring when a hurricane hits land.
- Shelter-in-place means staying at home during a hurricane.
- Evacuate means leaving your home for a safer place.

## What is a Hurricane Watch?

A **hurricane watch** is issued to alert you and your family to the possibility of a hurricane developing in your area within 36 hours.

### *Things to do when a Hurricane Watch is issued*

- Stay alert and watch for changing weather conditions.
- Listen to your local news reports and weather updates.
- Review your family emergency plan.
- Take protective measures, such as putting up storm shutters.
- Know where your emergency kit and evacuation box are located.
- Be ready to seek shelter at a moment’s notice.

## What is a Hurricane Warning?

A **hurricane warning** is issued for your area when sustained winds of at least 74 mph are expected within 24 hours or less.

### *Things to do when a Hurricane Warning is issued*

- Listen to your local radio for instructions.
- Evacuate immediately if told to do so, taking your evacuation box with you.
- If your family is sheltering-in-place (staying at home), follow your family’s emergency plan.

## What are Tropical Storm Watches and Warnings?

Although tropical storms have lower wind speeds than hurricanes, they often bring very dangerous flooding and dangerous winds.

Take alerts seriously.