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 is told to do so, taking your evacuation box with you.
- If your family if 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.