



Hurricane Preparedness

Audience: General, ESRD Community

Hurricane Terms

Hurricane watch means that there's no hurricane yet, but weather conditions could cause one. Experts will announce a hurricane watch 48 hours before they think dangerous winds will start.

Hurricane warning is more serious. It means a hurricane has already started or is just about to start.

What is a Hurricane?

Hurricanes are dangerous and destructive. Known also as cyclones and typhoons in other parts of the world, hurricanes cause high winds, flooding, heavy rain, and storm surges (high tidal waves). A typical cyclone is accompanied by thunderstorms, and in the Northern Hemisphere, a counterclockwise circulation of winds near the earth's surface.

Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale

Hurricanes are described by their wind speed from category 1 to 5. From the wind speed, meteorologists can determine the potential damage a hurricane can do.

Hurricane Hazards

- ◇ Tropical cyclones often produce widespread torrential rains in excess of 6 in.
- ◇ Flooding is the major threat from tropical cyclones for people living inland
- ◇ Flash flooding or rapid rises in waters levels can occur quickly due to intense rainfall
- ◇ Rainfall amounts are not directly related to the strength of tropical cyclones
- ◇ Flooding and strong winds can create structure damage and utility outages

| SAFFIR-SIMPSON HURRICANE SCALE | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| CATEGORY | WINDS | DAMAGE |
| 1 | 74-95 MPH | Minimal |
| 2 | 96-110 MPH | Moderate |
| 3 | 111-130 MPH | Major |
| 4 | 131-155 MPH | Extensive |
| 5 | > 155 MPH | Catastrophic |

Before a Hurricane

- ◆ Make a Family Disaster Plan
- ◆ Make a Go-Kit and stock up on emergency supplies
- ◆ Find nearest shelter and prepare evacuation routes
- ◆ Ready your car by ensuring a full tank of gas
- ◆ Ready your home by removing outdoor furniture
- ◆ Be ready to turn off utilities

During A Hurricane

- ◆ Check for weather updates
- ◆ Heed evacuation or shelter-in-place orders
- ◆ Stay inside, away from windows, and be ready to leave damaged structures

Additional Information

<http://www.ready.gov/hurricanes>

<http://kcercoalition.com/kcer-home/hazards/natural-events/>