

# Hurricane Conditions – Tornado Scale Information

## NOAA Hurricane Conditions

The below NOAA designated hurricane conditions are provided for background and planning purposes.

Category	Winds	Storm Surge	Effects
<b>CAT 1</b>	74-95 mph (64-82 kts)	4-5 feet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Damage is primarily to shrubbery, trees, foliage, and unanchored mobile homes. No real damage occurs to building structures. Some damage is done to poorly constructed signs.</li> <li>- Low-lying coastal roads are inundated, minor pier damage occurs, some small craft in exposed anchorages break moorings.</li> </ul>
<b>CAT 2</b>	96-110 mph (83-95 kts)	6-8 feet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Considerable damage is done to shrubbery and tree foliage, some trees are blown down. Major structural damage occurs to exposed mobile homes. Extensive damage occurs to poorly constructed signs. Some damage is done to roofing material, windows, and doors; no major damage occurs to building structures.</li> <li>- Coastal roads and low-lying escape routes inland are cut off by rising water 2-4 hrs before arrival of center. Considerable pier damage occurs, marinas are flooded. Small craft in unprotected anchorages break moorings. Evacuation of some shoreline residences and low-lying island areas is required.</li> </ul>
<b>CAT 3</b>	111-130 mph (96-113 kts)	9-12 feet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Damage occurs to shrubbery and trees: foliage is blown off trees, large trees are blown down. Practically all poorly constructed signs are blown down, some roofing material damage occurs, some window and door damage occurs, and some structural damage occurs to small residences and utility buildings. Mobile homes are destroyed. There is a minor amount of curtain wall failure.</li> <li>- Serious flooding occurs at the coast with many smaller structures near the coast destroyed. Larger structures are damaged by battering of floating debris. Low-lying escape routes inland are cut off by rising water 3-5 hrs before the center arrives. Terrain continuously lower than 5 ft above sea level may be flooded inland 8 mi or more. Evacuation of low-lying residences within several blocks of the shoreline may be required.</li> </ul>
<b>CAT 4</b>	131-154 mph (114-135 kts)	13-18 feet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shrubs and trees are blown down, all signs are down. Extensive roofing material damage occurs, extensive window and door damage occurs, complete failure of roof structures occurs on many small residences, and complete destruction of mobile homes occurs. Some curtain walls experience failure.</li> <li>- Terrain that is continuously lower than 10 ft above sea level may be flooded inland as far as 6 mi. - - Major damage occurs to lower floors of structures near the shore due to flooding and battering action. Low-lying escape routes inland may be cut off by rising water 3-5 hrs before the storm center arrives. Major erosion of beach area occurs. Massive evacuation of all residences within 500 yards of the shoreline may be required and of single-story residences on low ground within 2 mi of the shoreline.</li> </ul>
Category	Winds	Storm Surge	Effects
<b>CAT 5</b>	< 155 mph ( < 136 kts)	< 18 feet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shrubs and trees are down, roofing damage is considerable, and all signs are down. Very severe and extensive window and door damage occurs. Complete failure of roof structures occurs on many residences and industrial buildings. Extensive glass failures occur, some complete buildings fail, small buildings are overturned and blown over or away and complete destruction of mobile homes occurs.</li> <li>- Major damage occurs to lower floors of all structures located less than 15 ft above sea level and within 500 yds of the shoreline. Low-lying escape routes inland are cut off by rising water 3-5 hrs before the storm center arrives. Massive evacuations of residential areas situated on low ground within 5-10 mi of the shoreline may be required.</li> </ul>

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## Readiness Conditions

The following are unit readiness conditions that will be designated by higher authority. The Commander, Coast Guard District Seven is responsible for setting these conditions, although Commander, Sector St. Petersburg or the Station CO may set a higher condition in anticipation of gale/hurricane force winds in the AOR.

\* Gale force "Threatening Winds" (34kt/39 mph) in anticipation of hurricane force winds (64kt/74 mph).

\*\* NHC – National Hurricane Center

Condition	Set by District ...	** NHC Advisories
5	1- Dec to 31 May – Stand down from Hurricane Season	
4	1 Jun to 30 Nov – Seasonal Hurricane Condition for all D7 Units	
3	Gale force winds* are possible with in <b>48</b> hours	Hurricane Watch
2	Gale force winds* are possible with in <b>24</b> hours	Hurricane Warning
1	Gale force winds* are possible with in <b>12</b> hours	Hurricane
All Clear	Storm has passed and no longer a threat	

## Tornado Scale:

Hurricanes often spawn small Tornadoes. Tornadoes are rated on the **FUJITA TORNADO SCALE**.

**F-0: Up to 72 mph winds**

**F-1: 73-112 mph winds**

**F-2: 113-157 mph winds**

**F-3: 158-206 mph winds**

**F-4: 207-260 mph winds**

**F-5: 261 mph winds and above**