

## Hurricanes

**Imagine** everything you own, your house, your things, everything gone. **That** could be a result of a hurricane where you live. Hurricanes are large, swirling storms. They produce winds of 119 kilometers per hour (74 mph) or higher. **That** is faster than a cheetah, the fastest animal on land. **Winds** from a hurricane can damage buildings and trees. **Hurricanes** form over warm ocean waters. Sometimes they strike land. **When** a hurricane reaches land, it pushes a wall of ocean water ashore. **This** wall of water is called a storm surge. **Heavy** rain and storm surge from a hurricane can cause flooding. **Once** a hurricane forms, weather forecasters predict its path. **They** also predict how strong it will get. **This** information helps people get ready for the storm. **To prepare for a hurricane resident should evaluate where they lived and save food and water in case there is no food or water for weeks.**

**There** are five types, or categories, of hurricanes. **The** scale of categories is called the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale. **The** categories are based on wind speed. Category 1: Winds 119-153 km/hr (74-95 mph) - faster than a cheetah. Category 2: Winds 154-177 km/hr (96-110 mph) - as fast or faster than a baseball pitcher's fastball. Category 3: Winds 178-208 km/hr (111-129 mph) - similar, or close, to the serving speed of many professional tennis players. Category 4: Winds 209-251 km/hr (130-156 mph) - faster than the world's fastest rollercoaster. Category 5: Winds more than 252 km/hr (157 mph) - similar, or close, to the speed of some high-speed trains. What Are the Parts of a Hurricane? Eye: **The** eye is the "hole" at the center of the storm. **Winds** are light in this area. **Skies** are partly

cloudy, and sometimes even clear. **Eye** wall: The eye wall is a ring of thunderstorms. These storms swirl around the eye. **The** wall is where winds are strongest, and rain is heaviest. Rain bands: Bands of clouds and rain go far out from a hurricane's eye wall. **These** bands stretch for hundreds of miles. **They** contain thunderstorms and sometimes tornadoes. **The** major hazards associated with hurricanes are storm surge and storm tide, heavy rainfall and inland flooding, high winds, rip, currents and in some cases tornadoes. **To prepare for a hurricane you need know your evacuation routes. Be sure to have discussed or have a written evacuation plan. Create a home safety kit. The Department of Homeland Security recommends you have: Enough water for each person to have a gallon a day, three-day supply of non-perishable food, battery-powered radio with extra batteries, flashlight, whistle, First Aid Kit, garbage bags, towelettes, phone chargers, duct tape, wrench or pliers, local map, manual can opener and other things.**

**Tropical** storms and hurricanes bring heavy rain and winds that can create damage, as well as block roads and knock out power. **People** with certain health conditions, like those that require medication, need to have a safety plan in place in case an emergency strike. **So is correct to say that to prepare for a hurricane resident should evaluate where they lived and save food and water in case there is no food or water for weeks, and even more things.**