



HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

In 2020, Hurricane Hanna made an early landfall on July 25, with sustained winds of 90 miles per hour. In 2021, Tropical Storm Wilfred exhausted the list of 21 names in the official Atlantic Hurricane list for only the second time in history. (The Greek alphabet was used for the remainder of the season, extending through the ninth letter.) All hurricanes are dangerous, and the combination of storm surge, wind, and other factors determine the hurricane's total destructive power. Local officials should always plan for the worst, and the following chart shows how destructive a hurricane can get.

CATEGORY	WINDS (MPH)	DAMAGE	STORM EXAMPLE AND YEAR
1	74-95	Minimal: Damage to building structures possible, primarily to unanchored older model mobile homes. Damage to poorly constructed signs, shrubbery, and trees. Loose outdoor items become projectiles. Numerous power outages.	HUMBERTO 2007
2	96-110	Widespread from very strong winds: Some roofing material, door, and window damage to buildings. Considerable damage to trees, vegetation, mobile homes, and piers. A number of high rise building glass windows dislodged to become projectiles. Widespread power outages up to several days.	IKE 2008
3	111-129	Extensive from dangerous winds: Some structural damage to small residences and utility buildings with minor amount of wall failures. Mobile homes destroyed. Many trees uprooted or snapped. Power outages lasting several days or weeks.	ALICIA 1983
4	130-156	Devastating from extremely dangerous winds: Some wall failures with complete house roof structure failures. Extensive damage to doors, windows, and trees. Electricity unavailable for weeks.	HARVEY 2017
5	>156	Catastrophic: Complete roof failure on many residences and industrial buildings. Some complete building failures with small buildings blown over or away. Power outages for weeks or months.	ANDREW 1992

Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale

Getting Ready:

- Staffing – Having an up-to-date call tree, first call list, and emergency staffing contact information can help reduce response disruptions.
- Training – In addition to periodic drills and exercises, ensure new and existing staff have been trained on your hurricane response plan.
- Equipment and Supplies – Restock the supplies you used during the previous hurricane season and make sure you check emergency supply levels prior to this season.
- Property Preservation – If possible, move critical equipment and vehicles to higher ground to avoid flooding.

You Had a Plan, Now What:

Advance planning can reduce the dangers of serious injury, loss of life, and property damage. To prepare for emergencies, cities and other local government entities should consider the following:

- Minimal Warning (Less than 24 hours) – Fuel essential vehicles. (Fueling systems or gas stations may be closed during emergencies.)
- Adequate Warning (24 – 36 hours) – Determine how and where to move vehicles and other mobile equipment to prevent or minimize damage from flooding.
- Staff Safety – After the storm, check to make sure staff work areas are safe, including the structural stability of work areas and the presence of downed electrical lines, broken gas lines, water contamination, and chemical spills.

Additional Resources

- [TDI Hurricane Preparation Fact Sheet](#)
- [TML Emergency Management](#)
- [TWIA Are You Ready for Recovery?](#)
- [THC Disaster Resources for Public Properties](#)

TMLIRP Resources:

- [Synergy Turnkey Recovery Program](#)
- [TMLIRP Best Roofing Program](#)
- [TMLIRP Hurricane Preparedness Resources](#)
- [TMLIRP Emergency Preparedness Plan](#)