

Tropical storm definitions

- **Hurricane:** Tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 74 mph or greater.
- **Hurricane Warning:** Sustained winds of 74 mph or greater are expected in a specified coastal area in the next 24 hours.
- **Hurricane Watch:** Hurricane conditions pose a possible threat to a specified coastal area within 36 hours.
- **Tropical Storm:** A named tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 39-73 mph.
- **Tropical Depression:** Tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 38 mph or less.
- **Tropical Disturbance:** An area of moving thunderstorms that maintains its identity for 24 hours or more.
- **Tropical Wave:** A trough of low pressure.

Saffir-Simpson hurricane scale

Saffir-Simpson hurricane scale is used to estimate potential property damage and flooding expected along a coast from a hurricane landfall.

- CATEGORY 1** Winds 74-95 mph (119-153 kph)
Barometric pressure 28.94 in. (73.5 cm) or more
Storm surge 4-5 ft. (1.2-1.5 m)
Damage Minimal; signs, tree branches and power lines blown down; damage to mobile homes
- CATEGORY 2** Winds 96-110 mph (154-177 kph)
Barometric pressure 28.50-28.93 in. (72.4-73.5 cm)
Storm surge 6-8 ft. (1.8-2.4 m)
Damage Moderate; some damage to roofs, windows; some downed trees
- CATEGORY 3** Winds 111-130 mph (178-209 kph)
Barometric pressure 27.91-28.49 in. (70.9-72.4 cm)
Storm surge 9-12 ft. (2.7-3.7 m)
Damage Extensive; minor damage to buildings, homes; large trees blown down
- CATEGORY 4** Winds 131-155 mph (210-249 kph)
Barometric pressure 27.17-27.90 in. (69.0-70.9 cm)
Storm surge 13-18 ft. (4.0-5.5 m)
Damage Extreme; almost total destruction of doors, windows; mobile homes destroyed
- CATEGORY 5** Winds more than 155 mph (250 kph)
Barometric pressure Less than 27.17 in. (69.0 cm)
Storm surge Higher than 18 ft. (5.5 m)
Damage Catastrophic; buildings, roofs, structures destroyed; all trees, shrubs downed

MCT GRAPHIC

Hurricane Tracking Map

HOW TO USE THE MAP

- Watch a local television/weather station for position/storm strength updates.
- Visit VictoriaAdvocate.com for the latest in hurricane information.
- Storm positions are given in latitude, which runs horizontally, and longitude, which runs vertically.
- Mark the position on the map to track the movement of the hurricane.

