

STORM CATEGORIES

There are 5 hurricane category levels. Each storm level has an increase in both wind speed and storm surge level. These are the 5 category levels and associated information.

Category	Wind Speed	Surge Level
1	74-95	4-5 feet
2	96-110	6-8 feet
3	111-130	9-12 feet
4	131-155	13-18 feet
5	Greater than 155	Greater than 18 feet

Storm Surge is an abnormal rise of sea along a shore as the result, primarily, of the winds from a storm. Depending on the strength of the storm the Storm Surge can travel inland a great distance.

Damage levels:

Category 1: Minimal Damage
Winds 74-95 mph
Surge 4-5 feet

No real damage to building structures. Damage is primarily to unanchored structures, shrubbery, and trees. Some coastal flooding and minor pier damage expected.

Category 2: Moderate Damage
Winds: 96-110 mph
Surge: 6-8 feet

Some roofing material, door, and window damage of buildings. Considerable damage to shrubbery and trees with some trees blown down. Considerable damage to mobile homes, poorly constructed signs, and piers. Small craft in unprotected anchorages break moorings.

Category 3: Extensive Damage
Winds: 111-130 mph
Surge: 9-12 feet

Some structural damage to small residences and utility buildings with a minor amount of curtainwall failures. Damage to shrubbery and trees with foliage blown off trees and large trees blown down. Mobile homes and poorly constructed signs are destroyed. Flooding near the coast destroys smaller structures with larger structures damaged by battering of floating debris.

Category 4: Extreme Damage
Wind: 131-155 mph
Surge: 13-18 feet

More extensive curtainwall failures with some complete roof structure failures on small residences. Shrubs, trees, and most signs are blown down. Complete destruction of mobile homes. Extensive damage to doors and windows. Major damage to lower floors of structures near the shore.

Category 5: Catastrophic Damage
Wind: More than 155 mph
Surge: Higher than 18 feet

Complete roof failure on many residences and industrial buildings. Some complete building failures with small utility buildings blown over or away. Most shrubs, trees, and signs blown down. Complete destruction of mobile homes. Severe and extensive window and door damage. Massive evacuation of residential areas on low ground within 5-10 miles of the shoreline may be required.

(Surge values are averages for storm categories. Actual surge depths may be much greater.)